

Recreation



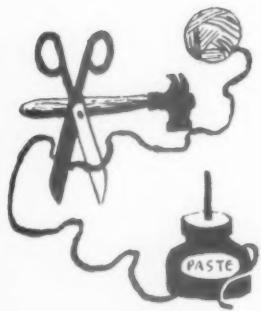
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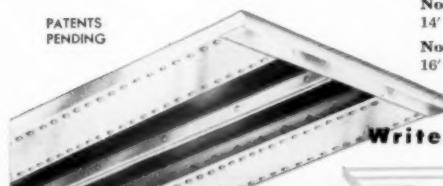
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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue, our Congress Issue, of RECREATION, will be published in September and will carry detailed last-minute information about the international meeting. Great plans are afoot, so don't miss it. . . . This issue will also carry, free to subscribers and members, a supplementary catalog of over seven-hundred recreation books, *The Guide to Recreation Reading*. (See page 284 of this issue for further details.) A happy summer holiday to our readers. We will see you in the fall!

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Affiliate membership in the National Recreation Association is open to all non-profit private and public organizations whose function is wholly or primarily the provision or promotion of recreation services or which include recreation as an important part of their total program and whose cooperation in the work of the association would, in the opinion of the association's Board of Directors, further the ends of the national recreation movement.

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Active associate membership in the National Recreation Association is open to all individuals who are actively engaged on a full-time or part-time employed basis or as volunteers in a nonprofit private or public recreation organization and whose cooperation in the work of the association would, in the opinion of the association's Board of Directors, further the ends of the national recreation movement.

Contributors

The continuation of the work of the National Recreation Association from year to year is made possible by the splendid cooperation of several hundred volunteer sponsors throughout the country, and the generous contributions of thousands of supporters of this movement to bring health, happiness and creative living to the boys and girls and the men and women of America. If you would like to join in the support of this movement, you may send your contribution direct to the association.

The National Recreation Association is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpolitical and nonsectarian civic organization, established in 1906 and supported by voluntary contributions, and dedicated to the service of all recreation executives, leaders and agen-

cies, public and private, to the end that every child in America shall have a place to play in safety and that every person in America, young and old, shall have an opportunity for the best and most satisfying use of his expanding leisure time.

For further information regarding the association's services and membership, please write to the Executive Director, National Recreation Association, 8 West Eighth Street, New York 11, New York.

The

First

Half

Century

is

the

Hardest



Editorial

A short lifetime ago—fifty years—the National Recreation Association was born, welcomed by President Theodore Roosevelt at a White House meeting of the Association's board of directors. Twenty-five years later President Herbert Hoover again made the White House a sounding board for the recreation needs of the American people by holding a meeting of the board of directors.

For fifty years the NRA has been a part of the persistent conscience of the American people, whispering what ought to be. When the whispers went unheeded a little shouting cleared the lungs.

The idea that play was a part of normal growth was then a novel idea. The NRA asserted that city life was ill-suited for children. In the planning of our cities the children had been left out. I was one of those children who tried to play football on an alley paved with cobblestones. I also tried to roller skate on brick sidewalks. *Then* only a handful of cities provided playgrounds of any sort; *now* there are few that do not. *Then* there were no trained play leaders; *now* the play leader is a member of a respected profession taught by many colleges whose graduates make the playgrounds hum.

Among NRA's honored presidents was Joseph Lee, philosopher of play, who wrote *Play and Education*, John H. Finley, college president and editor of *The New York Times*, and Howard Braucher, idealist turned executive, statesman in social work.

Joseph Lee, John Finley, and Howard Braucher left indelible impressions, not only on the NRA but on their times. They, and many unknown soldiers in the ranks, have made it possible for the NRA in its fiftieth year to strive with increasing success to make the profession of recreation leadership one of the most outstanding influences in the American way of life. By games, sports, and carry-over skills in arts and crafts and other cultural interests, recreation leaders are equal partners with school teachers in molding incentive and character. The NRA will always be fighting the battles of the recreation leader against political pressure and for the highest professional standards.

The ultimate strength of the National Recreation Association lies in the devotion and civic spirit of thousands of laymen and women on boards, committees, and foundations who steadily hold the line and keep advancing it.

NRA's Fiftieth Anniversary is marked by three outstanding events: Our new home headquarters, a building of charm and adequacy—the reconditioned former Whitney Art Museum—is in full swing. The first nation-wide drive for resources to permit the NRA to meet ever-increasing demands upon its staff, publications, and services is being planned. The final great event will be the International Recreation Congress in Philadelphia, September 30 to October 5, the first in twenty years and the most far-reaching ever attempted, with participants from many lands.

The NRA persuaded the International Educational Exchange Service of the State Department to invite a number of recreation leaders from different countries. Fifty or more American communities have been organized to receive these overseas leaders into their recreation and civic lives for varying periods—weeks or months.

The International Recreation Congress has grown out of two missions undertaken by the International Recreation Service of the NRA when Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Rivers visited thirteen countries in 1952, and twenty-two countries on a second trip in 1955.

We are fortunate to have Joseph Prendergast as executive director. His zeal, devotion, and ability find a keen response in the enthusiastic cooperation of a staff second to that of no other civic organization.

The workers of fifty years ago, including myself, did not foresee the scope, the widening horizons of activities, or the potent influence NRA and recreation would come to wield. May the next fifty years be even more fruitful in the pursuit of happiness, through a sound mind in a sound body, both mind and body more and more engaged in creative leisure-time activities satisfying to the deepest needs of men.

Chairman, National Recreation Association Board of Directors.

Things You Should Know . . .

► MANY THANKS TO OUR GOOD FRIENDS, for the warm Golden Anniversary congratulations which are still pouring into National Recreation Association headquarters. They now number in the hundreds and include many interesting and distinguished names.

► IF YOU HAVE MISSED DETAILS OF THE NEW NATIONAL RECREATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, write to NRA's Recreation Personnel Service for further information. Association *Membership Letters* have been carrying the full story.

► THE 58TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the American Institute of Park Executives will be held in Seattle, Washington, September 9 to 14.

► AS WE GO TO PRESS, proclamations setting aside June as *National Recreation Month* have been received from thirty of the forty-eight governors of the United States, and from the governor of Hawaii. Many other exciting events are popping. Civic leaders in thirty-seven states are receiving special 50th Anniversary certificates of appreciation from the National Recreation Association, for outstanding contributions to the recreation program in their own communities. One hundred and forty-nine people and forty-four clubs or civic groups in one hundred and two cities are being honored. Many other special events have been arranged in communities across the country; and national and local publicity will give an added boost to recreation in America.

► THE JUNE ISSUE of the *Tennessee Town and City* is devoted to National Recreation Month and the subject of recreation.

► A NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE for India's teen-agers, *Sunshine*, has been recently established by its editor, G. H. Krishnayya, according to the April issue of the *NEA Journal*. The publication will feature science and nature stories, tales of India and how-to-do-it articles, and will be printed in both English and Hindi. Yearly two-dollar subscriptions may be ordered from:

Manager, Sunshine Publishing House, 5556 Shivajinagar, Poona 5, India, with checks payable to the *Sunshine* account at the National City Bank of New York in Bombay, India.



► ABOVE, TENLEY ALBRIGHT (RIGHT), AND ADELAIDE BALL, at the 50th Anniversary reception of the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association in New York, May 23. Miss Albright is U. S. Olympic Champion figure skater and Miss Ball is alderman of Newton, Massachusetts.

► A BILL TO PUNISH PARENTS for failing to act in cases of juvenile delinquency has been approved by Governor Averell Harriman of New York. The new law, effective in July, will make parents liable to fines of up to two hundred and fifty dollars and jail sentences up to thirty days, if they are judged delinquent in their handling of their children. "I am skeptical of the results," stated the governor dubiously. He feels, however, that it is worth a fair trial.

► THE 1956 CONFERENCE of State Inter-Agencies Committees for Recreation was held May 1 and 2 at Lake Hope State Park, Ohio, with representatives from the following states and organizations: Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, the Federal Inter-Agency

Committee for Recreation, and the NRA. The 1957 conference is scheduled to be held in Missouri.

► THE GIRL SCOUT SENIOR ROUNDUP will be the first large scale encampment by the Girl Scouts and is being held June 29 to July 11 at the Highland State Recreation Area, Milford, Michigan. It is estimated that over five thousand teen-age girls will participate. For further information write Girl Scouts National Headquarters, 155 East 44th Street, New York 17.

► PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S MEETING ON THE PHYSICAL FITNESS of American youth is scheduled for June 18 and 19 at the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis. Joseph Prendergast, executive director of the NRA, has been invited to attend.

► TRAIL RIDER TRIPS are announced again this year by the American Forestry Association. Fifteen pack trips, by horse or canoe into America's remaining wilderness areas, will rally in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. They vary from ten to twelve days in length, and costs, ranging from \$200 to \$250 per person are shared by the riders. For more information, write to American Forestry Association, 919 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

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Copies of the Playground Issue of RECREATION for past years are now available at:

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Additional Information

The announcement in our May 1956 issue—of available reprints of Dr. Alexander Reid Martin's address, "A Philosophy of Recreation," delivered at the Second Southern Regional Conference for Hospital Recreation, at the University of North Carolina—neglected to state that this address was printed by the university and distributed by the North Carolina Recreation Commission. Reprint permission was granted to the NRA by the commission.



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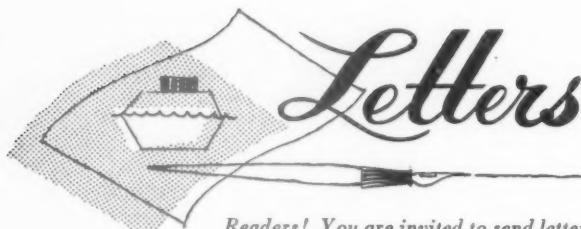
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Letters

Readers! You are invited to send letters for this page to Editor, RECREATION, 8 West Eighth Street, New York 11—so that your ideas, opinions and attitudes may be exchanged with others on the wide range of subjects of concern to us all. Here is your chance to agree or disagree with the authors of our articles. Keep letters brief—not more than 250 words.

—The Editors.

Do You Need Extras?

Sirs:

I should like to compliment you and your staff on a most excellent playground issue of RECREATION. I believe it is the best such issue in my experience in the professional field. It is so good, in fact, that I am ordering copies for each of my twenty-two summer playground workers.

JAMES GLENN HUDSON, Executive Director, Geneva Youth Bureau, Geneva, New York.

* * * *

Sirs:

Your April issue of RECREATION is a real beauty. I'm sure you are getting many fine comments on it, so let me add mine too. The issue has a superb balance of recreation and playground maintenance material, and it's going to sit on my desk for some time as an inspiration to pour over for ideas for handling playground material for *The American City*.

DOUGLAS S. POWELL, Associate Editor, American City Magazine, New York City.

A Rose Is A Rose

Sirs:

In "On The Campus," in your April issue, our football player is John Witte, John White, but a rose is a rose is a rose.

A while back Jimmy Rogers spent two days on the campus during which time he addressed the professional recreation majors, the regular meeting of the Oregon State College section of the AAHPER, and a dinner meeting of the combined physical education, health, and recreation staffs of Oregon State College and the University of Oregon. His trip was sponsored jointly by the college and the AAHPER chapter.

I have just been informed that two of our senior girls are having an article published on arts and crafts in the May issue of RECREATION. Contribution of an article to a professional magazine was a class assignment in my commu-

nity recreation class last term. This printing will provide great incentive to future classes and perhaps the groans on next assignment day will not be nearly so vociferous.

MORTIMER MORRIS, Associate Professor of Recreation, Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon.

"Only a Play Leader"

Sirs:

Who can ever forget Howard Braucher's editorial on "Mere Play"? The phrase "only a play leader" is unforgettable, and it is as timely now as it was when first published, over two decades ago. I am delighted to see it reprinted in the April issue. Braucher had a very unique way of writing concise, stimulating, and highly valuable editorials—a rare gift.

The National Recreation Association, of which he was foremost leader for so many years, has done more than any other organization to make America conscious of the importance of wholesome recreation. Fifty years of continuous service is indeed a great accomplishment. Congratulations!

MARTIN H. NEUMAYER, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

What's in a Name?

Sirs:

Apropos of Mr. Charles Odegaard's letter, in the March issue, about standardization of names: while we are at it, why don't we also try to do something about a name for our profession rather than a description of what we do?

We call ourselves "recreation worker" or "recreation leader" or "recreation supervisor" or "recreation administrator," but why not a single word which everyone would come to recognize as the label of the profession? Perhaps a manufactured word would do the trick—a word based on the word "recreation" such as "recreationist"

or "recreationalist." Undoubtedly it would sound strange at first—but probably so did chemist or psychologist or optometrist or all the other truly professional names that were so evolved and which are now part of everyone's vocabulary.

We are not the only profession in this situation, I know—witness the "social worker" for example—but that is no reason for not attempting to correct it. We like to think of ourselves as a profession—why not do something about getting a professional name? We don't call a teacher "an education worker" or an attorney "a law worker"—why do it in our field?

Perhaps this letter will "start the ball rolling." I'd like to see some comments from the field in your columns.

M. C. THILTGEN, Superintendent, Recreation Department, San Mateo, California.

Further Congratulations

Among many thoughtful letters and telegrams from organizations, municipal recreation departments, and individuals, congratulating the National Recreation Association on its Golden Anniversary are the following. We wish we had the space in which to share every one of them. However, we herewith extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to all of our good friends.

This Friday our thoughts turn back to April 13, 1906, when in Washington, D. C., a galaxy of national leaders, under the honorary presidency of the President of the United States, brought into being the Playground Association of America. Fifty years have seen dramatic changes. It is as far from that Playground Association to the present National Recreation Association as it is from the Republicanism of Teddy Roosevelt to that of President Eisenhower.

Your history and ours are closely linked in the colorful person of Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, founder of the Association, and for thirteen years a member of the faculty of Springfield College. Since that day the interests and activities of the new movement, now known as the National Recreation Association, and the college have been intertwined, and we look forward to another half-century of cooperation.

So it is with particular warmth that we now congratulate you and the National Recreation Association upon this Golden Anniversary and wish you both many long years of continuing public service.—DONALD C. STONE, President, Springfield College, Springfield, Mass.

On behalf of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., I am happy to extend greetings

for National Recreation Month and the Golden Anniversary of the National Recreation Association.

We know that Scouting for girls has benefited through the years by the development of increasing opportunities and facilities for recreation, and that our common objectives are supported by active cooperation in communities.

Many of the professional workers in Girl Scouting also belong to your organization, and we work together on the national level as fellow-members of the National Social Welfare Assembly.

The contribution which the National Recreation Association is making to the welfare of the public gains in importance from year to year, as people of all ages seek ways of using leisure time that are both creative and rewarding. We are most happy to express the best wishes of our entire membership for many more years of useful service, and to pledge our continued cooperation.—

MRS. ROY F. LAYTON, President, Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

* * * *

Camp Fire Girls, founded by Luther Halsey Gulick, who was also an organizer and the first president of the Playground Association of America, extends heartiest congratulations on the fiftieth anniversary of the National Recreation Association.—*MARTHA F. ALLEN, National Director, Camp Fire Girls, Inc. (Telegram)*

* * * *

Congratulations on fifty years of service involving incalculable contributions to growth of recreation for wellbeing of all people.—*GUY L. SHIPPS, Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan. (Telegram)*

* * * *

The Playground and Recreation Board of Decatur, Illinois, has asked me to extend congratulations to the National Recreation Association on its Golden Anniversary, and also to wish you well in your new home.

The Decatur Recreation Board has many reasons to wish the National Recreation Association well. The history of Decatur shows that as far back as 1907, we have had relationship with the Playground Association of America and later, of course, the National Recreation Association. Members of the staff have done much to help us develop the program that we have today.

Knowing so well what the National Recreation Association has meant to Decatur gives us a fair idea of the tremendous amount of good that your Association has done throughout the country and now the world.

All of us extend our greetings and wish you continued success.—*RUSSELL J. FOVAL, Superintendent of Recreation, Decatur, Illinois.*

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Editorially Speaking

L. H. Weir Recreation Banquet, April 1955, Indiana University.

Joseph Lee Speaks

On Space for Recreation: "The setting aside of parks for camping and recreation generally is of vital importance and will become vastly more so as America becomes filled up. We ought even, if necessary, to use for park and beauty purposes land that could be used for food.

"It is not a misfortune to Switzerland that the Lord or somebody has so made their country that it is impossible to reduce it wholly to utilitarian ends, though the railroads up the Jungfrau, etc., are doing their best. The greatest asset of mankind is the unconquerable sea. Some practical man will some day come along to show how it can be made to produce corn or oil or some other means of living miserably in an uninteresting world."

On Recreation as Prevention: "Football and similar dangerous sports give expression to the fighting or knight-errant instinct in every boy, turning it into the proper channel instead of leaving it overflow over the surrounding country. The alternative to a boy in a playless world is break the law or die, and to his everlasting credit he chooses the former alternative.

"I do not believe, however, that the main object of play is prevention of lawlessness or of anything else. It is the expression of the nature that the Lord put into human beings, and its function is positive."—*From Private Letters.*

Dedication: To those thousands of people from all walks of life who have contributed in so many ways to the furthering of recreation as a part of community-life, we dedicate this issue of **RECREATION**, on the Golden Anniversary of the National Recreation Association.

A New Crusade

As the National Recreation Association begins its second half-century of service, America is ready for a new crusade for recreation. It is a crusade, not by proclamation, but by the facts and needs of the times. There are many hundreds of communities with populations of five thousand or more which have not yet established the framework for a community recreation program. In the next few years these communities will be moving ahead. Recreation is on the march. During last year alone, more than one hundred communities for the first time began year-round recreation programs under professional leadership.

We are in the midst of a crusade which is bringing organized, planned, community-sponsored recreation to every community in the United States. Your National Recreation Association is pledged to give every possible support to this new movement.

But the campaign—the crusade, if you will—must carry us far beyond the initial establishment of new recreation departments and organizations. We must seek to lead the recreation movement into a new quality of program, of leadership, of facilities, of organization. America needs and seeks new leisure opportunities and experiences. The time is now for all-out effort by everyone in the recreation movement to meet the challenge of the new leisure.

—JOSEPH PRENDERGAST.

The Age of Enjoyment

Our age bears many titles. To W. H. Auden it is "the age of anxiety." Howard Mumford Jones sees it as "the age of violence"—one dark century of increasing horror. Professor Arnold Toynbee classifies it as "the age of mili-

tarism." Winston Churchill calls it "the age of coexistence"—or coextinction, as you prefer. Shannon and Weaver recognize our times as "the age of automation," rooted in a matured theory of mathematical communication. To J. Robert Oppenheimer we live in "the age of the atom." James B. Conant sees us as standing on the threshold of "the age of solar energy." Russell Davenport names our era as "the age of fine phrases." Aldous Huxley calls it "the age of idolatries." Our age has been variously described as "the age of apathy," devoid of burning commitments which once made life a crusade; as "the age of the neurotic self"; as "the age of faith," with a return to the church.

I propose our era as "the age of enjoyment." In the closing decades of our century our pace quickens as we advance toward the fulfillment of the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the trinity of values once asserted only as philosophical goals in the Declaration of Independence.—DR. PAUL F. DOUGLASS, *in an address at the*



Edna V. Braucher

Edna Braucher has voiced the feelings of all friends of recreation in her prayer written for the dedication of the National Recreation Association's new home. Wife of Howard Braucher, late leader of the recreation movement and head of the National Recreation Association, Mrs. Braucher has contributed generously of her time and her services to the Association during his lifetime and since his death.

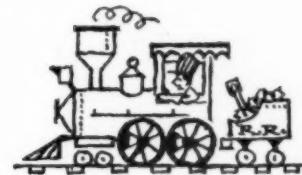
A Prayer

"O Thou great Giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank Thee for this moment of culmination. We rejoice in the onward progress of our great movement. May the sense of exaltation and dedication we feel today glow brightly within us. May we in our new and beautiful surroundings be able to relate ourselves ever more closely to the human needs of those we serve. May no machinery or pattern of procedure dim in us the deep and abiding sense that we are working for enlarged and satisfying life experience for our brothers. As we press forward in this pioneer adventure of the human spirit, help us to see clearly and act nobly."



The National Scene

1 9 1 6



★ The American flag had only forty-five stars in 1906.

Probably the greatest news story of that year was the San Francisco earthquake at 5:13 A.M. on April 18. Only a week after the calamity the *Boston Transcript* could print these lines:

“Some San Francisco folks intend
This summer to forsake her;
Because the earth is not a Friend
Although it is a Quaker.”

Two days after the earthquake, bread sold for a dollar a loaf in San Francisco—and wealthy citizens whose money had been in banks were borrowing from those whose bank was a pocket.

In New York, at the other end of the country and under more normal conditions, strictly fresh eggs were seventeen for a quarter and butter was twenty-three cents a pound. The classified advertisements listed a six-room housekeeping apartment on West 69th Street, furnished and with bath, at ten dollars a week; or a nine-room steam-heated apartment, also with bath, in a two-family house in Brookline, Massachusetts, could be rented for thirty-five dollars a month.

Grade school teachers in Boston received increases in salaries that year by vote of the Peabody School Committee; thereafter they were to receive up to a maximum of five-hundred dollars a year. Neat “cash girls” were wanted in New York department stores for three dollars a week with one day off.

Four-cylinder Pope-Hartfords cost twenty-five hundred dollars. This automobile “takes all the hills on the high gear” and runs “five to fifty miles an hour on the level without changing gears.” One person in eight hundred owned a car—an Ardsley, Cadillac, Peerless, or Packard; a Studebaker, Oldsmobile or Pope-Hartford.

The Pennsylvania Railroad advertised “eighteen hours from New York to Chicago.”

The “aeroplane” was three years old and already “the problem of the century, mechanical flight,” was solved. The Wrights had made one hundred and sixty flights, averaging a mile each, and the machine had attained a speed of slightly more than thirty-eight miles per hour.

The *Literary Digest* had an article about the effect of the telephone on our American dialects. “The use of the telephone is bringing about greater similarity in different parts of the country,” asserted the president of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company.

The *San Francisco Examiner* for April 16, 1906, in a front page story, reported telephone communication be-

tween that city and New York: “The long distance telephone would seem to have been perfected.” Three days earlier the mayors of San Francisco and Oakland were reported as having exchanged wireless telegrams, the first such messages transmitted between those cities.

The *Ladies Home Journal* carried an article by Jane Addams, “The First Five Years at Hull House.” *Munsey’s Magazine* for September stated that “all told, New York City is spending three hundred thousand dollars a year for school playgrounds.”

In 1906 people were singing “Waltz Me Around Again Willie,” “Forty-five Minutes from Broadway,” “The Good Old Summer Time,” and “Everybody Works But Father.”

All three Barrymores were appearing on Broadway in the same play, Sir James M. Barrie’s latest, *Alice-Sit-by-the-Fire. Charley’s Aunt*, the “greatest of comedy successes,” was playing; and there were *The Girl of the Golden West* with Blanche Bates, *George Washington, Jr.* with George M. Cohan, and Maude Adams in *Peter Pan*. (Maude Adams was the favorite actress of Yale’s class of 1906, Ethel Barrymore was second and Julia Marlowe was third.) Emma Eames, Geraldine Farrar, Madam Schumann-Heink, and Caruso were singing at the Metropolitan.

In Boston, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* was playing; and the great Sarah Bernhardt was promised “late in the season” for a single performance in one act from each of four plays.

Dancing schools taught the glide-waltz, two-step, schottische, polka, half-time, and lancers. Fashions were affected by the automobile—tourist coats had the “auto-cut”, were made of silk and mohair of “dust-shedding qualities.” Bathing suits could be had of either mohair or serge with “high or open neck, sailor collar, and with bishop or short sleeves.”

There was considerable speculation among editors in 1906 as to presidential candidates for 1908. “Who knows,” asked the *Washington Post*, “that the exigency will not arise that shall make it imperative for Mr. Roosevelt to enter the lists? He was drafted in 1900. What has been, may be.” Beginning in early 1906, George Harvey, editor of *Harpers Weekly*, carried on a vigorous campaign for Woodrow Wilson’s nomination as the Democratic candidate for 1908.

President Theodore Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for his success in bringing about peace between Russia and Japan.

This was the general national scene when the *Boston Transcript* for April 13, 1906, reported the formation, in Washington, D.C., on April 12, of the Playground Association of America. ■



RAW MATERIAL FOR PLAYGROUNDS. Rubbish pile is not a spot for children; but "where shall they play?"

THE NEED "to collect and distribute knowledge of and promote interest in playgrounds throughout the country," as brought to the attention of socially conscious citizens, resulted in the birth of the Playground Association of America in Washington, D.C. This purpose was so phrased in the first draft of the Association's constitution. City children were playing in the streets in those days, in vacant lots, railroad yards, on construction projects, or wherever they could find an open space. Traffic accidents were high, and the police were busy arresting young offenders. The big problem before the new organization, then, was: "Where shall they play?"

The idea of starting a playground organization had first been suggested by Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick of New York City to Dr. Henry S. Curtis in November 1905; and it became a reality just one year later. Even before this date, steps had been taken toward providing play spaces for America's children, and Joseph Lee—fighting for playgrounds for the slum children of Boston—already had gone a long way toward earning the title, "Godfather of Play." As Clark W. Hetherington was to write in 1931, "Broadly speaking, it is safe to say that previous to 1906 America had no positive philosophy about the social or educational values of play or recreation. There were recreation activities, but no recreation ideals...."

One of the first meetings of the new Association, arranged by Charles F. Weller of Washington, D. C., was held with President Theodore Roosevelt at the White House. Mr. Roosevelt gave the organization his blessing, agreed to serve as honorary president, and urged that in all its activities an effort be made to keep freedom for the children. (This be-

MR. WILLIAMS is assistant executive director of the National Recreation Association.

An Organization is Born

An understanding of our past is essential to understanding the present and planning intelligently for the future.

came a central theme in recreation thinking—"To make it easy for each person to do what he likes best to do, to give him a chance to find others with like interests.") Jacob Riis of New York, nationally known crusader against slums, agreed to serve as honorary vice-president.

At the first organization meeting, Dr. Gulick became president, Dr. Curtis of New York, secretary and assistant treasurer, Henry B. F. Macfarland of Washington, first vice-president, Jane Addams of Chicago, second vice-president, Joseph Lee of Boston, third vice-president, and Felix Warburg of New York, treasurer.

At that time, forty-one cities already were reporting playgrounds under leadership. Today, an estimated twenty thousand publicly-owned neighborhood playgrounds serve millions of children, young people, and adults; while approximately twelve thousand indoor recreation centers and buildings register total attendances of more than one hundred and fifty million people throughout the year.

The first national Congress—the Chicago Play Congress—was held in June 1907. THE PLAYGROUND, monthly magazine which later would become RECREATION, was established in April of that same year, and Joseph Lee wrote in its first issue: "What is wanted on a playground is not the teaching of baseball (it is difficult to prevent a boy from acquiring that accomplishment under any conditions), but the influence of a man or woman of high character. Children are very imitative; it is the incidental teaching by example that counts, especially on the moral side, and nowhere else does example count more than on the playground."

Such leadership is now accepted as a *must* in recreation and, comparatively, the wholesome use of leisure has become a commonplace. It seems incredible, therefore, that in 1907 contempt and derision was hurled at field representatives of the Association when they advocated children's



FIRST SMALL GROUP of organizers included: Beulah Kennard (top left), Dr. George Kober, Commissioner H. B. F. Macfarland, Walter Hatch, Ellen Spencer Mussey, Charles Weller, Myron T. Seudder, Marie Hofer, Mary McDowell, Amelia Hofer, Dr. Luther H. Gulick, Archibald Hill, Seth T. Stewart, Mrs. Samuel Ammon, Sadie American, Dr. Henry S. Curtis (front center), and Dr. Rebecca Stoneroad.



THE PRESIDENT of the U.S., in 1906, vigorously encourages a group of adults to work for children's "play" — a revolutionary conception.

playgrounds. An example is the oft-quoted statement of a congressman who, in questioning the appropriating of government money to teach children to play, said, "You might as well try to teach fishes to swim as children to play." As a milepost of some fifty years of recreation progress, compare this statement with one made in 1953 by Mayor Clark of Philadelphia, "No elected official could . . . eliminate recreation as a major function of local government and expect re-election."

To withstand these early misguided attitudes, the young organization needed all the wisdom, skill, inspiration and public backing which its pioneering leaders could bring to it.

However, from the moment of the first meeting of that staunch little group of visionary citizens in Washington, outstanding leadership was at hand. It was fortunate in having Dr. Gulick at the helm. He had made a study of play and had become deeply convinced of its significance as a social force and in education.

The Russell Sage Foundation became interested in the new Association at this time and, through the sympathetic understanding of Robert W. de Forest, gave it a great deal of help. In November, 1907, the foundation loaned Lee F. Hanmer to serve as the Association's first field secretary. As he traveled from city to city in the interests of playgrounds and recreation, he acquired the nickname of "The Playground Drummer."

Later, the Association was again fortunate in having as its president Joseph Lee, who knew play not only as a philosopher but as a practical social worker, and Howard Braucher as its executive secretary, and finally its president. These two leaders were greatly responsible for the Association's high moral quality, intellectual earnestness, and social insight.

When Howard Braucher became the infant association's

first paid secretary in 1909, he did so on the proviso that it become the spearhead of "a nation-wide movement to bring broad recreation opportunities to all the people, regardless of age, sex, religious faiths." This objective was incorporated in the organization's purpose, and was to be Mr. Braucher's guiding principle throughout the years.

In its first program, largely educational, the Association undertook to interpret to the American public the then unrecognized need for a trained professional group of men and women with freedom to organize and administer play and recreation on a community basis. This was a type of worker distinct from the teacher, park administrator, and social worker.

From that day on, the discovery, employment, guidance and serving of this professional group has engaged much of the Association's attention and constitutes one of its unique and outstanding services to America. The public recreation superintendent, the playground director, and the play leader are a distinctly American product and, more specifically, a product of National Recreation Association.

Rapid Growth

It was necessary to add new services steadily to meet the demands of a growing program. The field services to communities were the first, of course. There followed many others, among them consultation service, short-term intensive training institutes, a drama service, music, physical education, field service in relation to park departments, the National Recreation School, field service on recreation and athletics for women and girls, the promotion of play in institutions, four-week institutes in major cities, nature and gardening services, service in the planning of recreation facilities and areas.

The history of the Association is the story of an agency broadening and adapting its work to the swiftly changing American scene. The very alterations in its name—from Playground Association to Playground and Recreation Association in May 1911, and finally to National Recreation Association in June 1930—record an evolution from a children's playground movement to a broad service to adults



MADE BY A PLAYGROUND BOY. Model airplane intrigues Joseph Lee, who exhibits the craft project to Mrs. Thomas Alva Edison and Howard Braucher.

and children; and the final establishment, in 1953, of its International Recreation Service indicates the steady expansion of its horizons.

Its purpose was officially restated in 1950 as follows: "To assure every child in America of a place to play in safety and every person, young and old, an opportunity to find the best, and most satisfying use of his expanding leisure time."

This growth has not been without its difficulties; one problem, from the very beginning, has been the grip of commercialized amusement on the American people; another, the puritanical scorn of play, or the glorification of work.

Also obstacles to the work of the Association have been the growing congestion of cities and the unrestrained land exploitation during the era of industrial expansion. City planning, including recreation planning, in the United States was so laggard in the early days that vast urban areas were filled solid, making the price for land for playgrounds and parks in the older sections of cities practically prohibitive. Even today, the great burning problem in the recreation field is land.

Two World Wars increased the responsibilities of the Association. During the first it established the War Camp Community Service program, a service which the government recognized as notably successful. Some of its by-products were: increased attention to the recreation of adults; more emphasis on community music, drama, art, crafts, and community recreation buildings. During World War II, its knowledge, experience, and leadership were again made available to and used by the federal government.

What happened in public recreation during the depression years is further proof of the soundness of the recreation movement. The government threw men and money into the construction of recreation facilities, community leadership and instruction. The Works Progress (later the Work Projects) Administration constructed thousands of playgrounds, athletic fields, swimming facilities, picnic areas, winter sport, and other facilities, among them 2,078 new playgrounds. This federal agency had 41,780 individuals, or 1.7 per cent of its total personnel, employed as recreation leaders in June 1939.

Interest in recreation spread accordingly, and the demand for voluntary and paid leadership became very great. Today, this demand far exceeds the number of available trained personnel. Recreation major courses have been established in many of our leading universities and colleges, with the awarding of graduate and postgraduate degrees in recreation. This current demand for trained leaders was dramatically pointed up in *Recreation As a Profession in the Southern Region*, a study conducted by the Personnel Service staff of the Association, published in 1955.

In the first years, leaders of the Russell Sage Foundation had pointed out that the Association should develop its own financial support. The organization and the recreation movement will be forever grateful to those men and women who had the vision and courage to ask for the funds which have made possible the results achieved.

The Association now has over 18,000 contributors. Four new types of service memberships in the Association have been established since the arrival of Joseph Prendergast as executive director, in 1950. They are: *affiliate*, for recreation departments and organizations; *active associate*, for individuals who work in the recreation field; *student associate*, for students taking recreation courses, and *student affiliate*, for student groups.

New also are the eight District Advisory Committees and the eight National Advisory Committees. The National Advisory Council heads up these extremely helpful and valuable groups of professional recreation leaders who represent an important pooling of cooperative effort by those on the firing line and the Association.

One of the things which make the National Recreation Association an unique organization is its work with lay citizens in the provision of local community recreation services. Community leaders can associate with it for service. A special program for honorary citations to be awarded to outstanding lay contributors to the recreation movement which has just been instituted by the Board of Directors as a part of the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration, is described in the article, "National Recreation Month," on page 274.

City planning which, up to the twentieth century, was largely concerned with street systems, now examines every phase of community life and increasingly includes planning for recreation areas and facilities. The Survey and Planning Service of the Association is challenged by an ever-increasing number of requests for service.

Other changes in recreation, through the years, have brought a greater concern for the individual participant in recreation activities, more small group activities rather than large, recreation for the elderly and for persons in hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. Churches are outgrowing the old idea that play is sin and establishing interesting recreation programs for all ages. It is a vital factor in giving America's mounting population of senior citizens a greater source of dignity, worth, and happiness.

And there has come about a greater understanding of the importance of recreation to many things: to mental and physical health; to an enrichment of living, and the development of the human being; to the training of future citizens; to international understanding; and to the fulfillment of our



As early as 1908 delegates piled into charabancs for inspection tours of Congress city's parks and playgrounds.

basic human needs. Recreation, in other words, is becoming recognized as an important part of life. As Howard Braucher said: "Recreation, like education, is for all men everywhere, from the cradle to the grave. It is not merely for those who have suffered misfortune. It is to give to all opportunity for growth, opportunity to be and become themselves. . . . The recreation movement is a movement for the centuries and not just for today and tomorrow. It belongs to and is a part of religion, education, industry, social work, health movements, prevention of crime movements, character building,

citizenship movements—yet it belongs exclusively to no one of these for it is in itself one side of life."

The remarkable prophetic vision of the founders of what is now the National Recreation Association has proven itself, and still provides a firm foundation for recreation in the new era of automation and the startling increase of leisure time for everyone. The valuable contribution of the recreation movement during the next fifty years to American life and culture offers a challenge as great or possibly greater than that envisioned by the Association's founding fathers. ■

Many Years of Service by NRA Staff Members

RETIRED These people served the Association for many years and until their retirement



James Edward Rogers
Field Service
1911-1949



E. Beatrice Stearns
Work with Volunteers
1921-1954



John W. Faust
Field Service
1923-1955



George W. Braden
Field Service
1921-1948

ACTIVE These people have served on the staff of the Association for twenty-five years or more

Mae Blaeesser—*General Files*

Benjamin Burk—*Printing*

George D. Butler—*Director of Research*

Elizabeth Clifton—*Secretary to the Executive Director*

Vera Dahlin—*Accounting*

George Dickie—*Executive Secretary of Federal Inter-Agency Committee*

Miriam Dochtermann—*Survey and Planning Service*

Mary B. Gubernat—*Recreation Personnel Service*

Lulu M. Lydell—*Los Angeles Office*

George A. Nesbitt—*Director of Correspondence and Consultation Service*

Charles E. Reed—*Director of Field Service*

Thomas E. Rivers—*Assistant Executive Director*

Rose J. Schwartz—*Director of Special Publications*

Emily H. Stark—*Accounting*

Willard C. Sutherland—*Director of Recreation Personnel Service*

Arthur Williams—*Assistant Executive Director*

Louise Winch—*Mailroom*

A TRIBUTE

After fifty years of service the National Recreation Association welcomes this occasion to express its sincere appreciation of, and acknowledge its debt to, the men and women of vision who laid its foundation of spiritual and physical strength, and to those who have contributed to it in various forms and believed in it through the last half-century. In the following mention of a specific few, we salute the many.

T. E. Rivers

To the Early Leaders—

Joseph Lee, who cared far more about people than about himself. He studied characteristics and needs of boys and girls, developed a play philosophy and put his thoughts down on the printed page before most people were even aware that there was any problem. He served as beloved leader of the Association for twenty-seven years.

Jacob Riis, who had done much thinking about the importance of play. As a New York newspaper reporter, destined to become one of America's foremost humanitarians, he recognized the crying need for play space, and was glad to endorse the work and objectives of the new Association. *Theodore Roosevelt*, President of the United States, who had spent much of his life in outdoor activity and was the country's most ardent advocate of the vigorous outdoor life. At just the right time he was ready to become active and vocal in behalf of recreation. Great impetus was given to the whole movement when he addressed a letter to the mayors of all the principal cities, inviting each to send a delegate to the first recreation congress in Chicago.

Jane Addams, who had been giving herself for years to the welfare and happiness of underprivileged families at Hull House, Chicago. She, too, was an earnest student of the social and recreation needs of boys and girls and young people. Her experience, her background, and her wonderful spirit gave her the qualities needed to help guide the young Association.

Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, who was one of the foremost students and teachers of his time in physical training, and was one of the first to recognize the character-building significance of play.

Lee F. Hanmer, who had been a teacher and an athlete at Cornell, and became a serious student of social conditions and a specialist in recreation. He also was affiliated with the Russell Sage Foundation through its Playground Extension Committee, and became the first field representative of the Association.

Dr. Seth Thayer Stewart, who was district superintendent of schools in New York City, and who thought of the school system as a social laboratory for the adjustment of young citizens to their environment. He thus came to appreciate the great contribution the recreation center and the play-

MR. RIVERS is assistant executive director of the National Recreation Association.

ground could make to the welfare and happiness of youth. *Dr. Henry S. Curtis*, trained in physical education, who became assistant director of playgrounds in New York City in the late nineties. In that position he became convinced of the need for organized training for playground workers. Through his persistence in attempting to find a way to make such training possible, there came a chain of developments which resulted in the creation of the Playground Association of America.

Charles F. Weller, an Associated Charities executive in Washington, who knew the social needs of children and young people. He had opened the first playground in the nation's capital and was immediately sympathetic to the ideas of Dr. Curtis.

Dr. Clark W. Hetherington, outstanding leader in the recreational aspect of physical education and fully cognizant of the need for training in the field of recreation.

There were many other contemporary persons who gave liberally of themselves and their talents to assist the new recreation movement, such as: *Dr. George E. Johnson* of the Playground Association in Pittsburgh, whose *Why Teach A Child to Play* is still widely used; the *Honorable Charles Evans Hughes*, whose address on "Why We Want Playgrounds," delivered in 1908, is still a valuable statement; *Allen T. Burns*, who contributed some of the first written statements on the relation of playgrounds to juvenile delinquency; *Edward B. DeGroot*, who helped launch the South Park System in Chicago; *Mary McDowell*, one of the prime movers in the Playground Association of Chicago; and *James Edward Rogers* who was very active on the Pacific Coast in helping to start some of the earliest recreation departments. *Felix M. Warburg*, *William Hamlin Childs*, *James G. Phelps Stokes*, *Jessie Bancroft* and *Mrs. Mary Kingsbury Simkhovitch*, a pioneer settlement worker in New York, were among those who were very active during the Association's first year.

Howard Braucher, who had not yet reached his twenty-fifth birthday when the Association was founded, was interested from the beginning in the organization's purposes and ideals. Trained for the ministry and for social work, in which he was active at Portland, Maine, he traveled to a number of cities as a volunteer to study the new movement. In 1909 he was elected secretary of the Association to succeed Dr. Curtis. Mr. Braucher's attitude toward the work was spiritual and religious. His leadership was inspirational.



Howard Braucher
Social Worker and Philosopher
Portland, Maine



Jane Addams
Social Worker, Hull House
Chicago, Illinois



Joseph Lee
Philanthropist
Boston, Massachusetts

To the Sponsors and Board Members—

That magnificent body of men and women whose support has made possible the work of the Association through all of these years. The growth of the Association and its national standing today are in a very large measure due to the devotion of board members, honorary members, and sponsors who have been willing to help raise the funds so necessary to the Association's program of service.

The current members of the Association's Board of Directors are shown on page 266. Since 1906, there have been 171 other nationally prominent men and women who have served the Association and the recreation movement as members of the board. *Otto T. Mallory*, current chairman, has been in office for five years, a member of the board since 1912, and has devoted a lifetime of service to the cause of recreation.

Some years as many as 18,000 men and women, corporations, agencies, and foundations have made contributions to the National Recreation Association. These gifts have come in all sizes. The great and inspiring thing about it all is that they continue to come. Why? Because of the capacity and devotion of that very select group known as "sponsors." Sponsors are leaders who are willing to ask others in their communities for contributions to the Association. There are at present 450 sponsors throughout the country.

Some of the outstanding men and women of the country have been willing to serve the Association. In city after city through the years sponsors have been leading bankers, attorneys, doctors, industrialists, judges, public officials, educators, and women of social and civic prominence. The late *President Franklin D. Roosevelt* and the late *John G. Winant* were former sponsors of the Association.

The number of individuals who have served in this capacity is so large that the thousands of names cannot be listed

individually. Perhaps it is appropriate here to recognize those who are still sponsoring after more than twenty years of service. Mrs. Dwight and Mr. Garrett, who head the list which follows, have been sponsors in their respective communities for thirty-five years. The others follow in order of length of service.

Mrs. William G. Dwight, Holyoke, Massachusetts
Robert Garrett, Baltimore, Maryland
F. Trubee Davison, Locust Valley, New York
Mrs. Norman Harrower, Fitchburg, Massachusetts
Dr. Tully C. Knoles, Stockton, California
Charles G. Middleton, Louisville, Kentucky
Mrs. Brace W. Paddock, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Mrs. Alger Shelden, Detroit, Michigan
Ward M. Canaday, Toledo, Ohio
Mrs. Walter C. Janney, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
Rev. Charles A. Ross, Elizabeth, New Jersey
Daniel B. Schuyler, Watertown, New York
F. Gregg Bemis, Boston, Massachusetts
Mrs. Paul L. Borden, Goldsboro, North Carolina
Mrs. H. Dutton Noble, Auburn, New York
Mrs. G. H. A. Clowes, Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Edgar Friedlander, Cincinnati, Ohio
Louis M. Hammerschmidt, South Bend, Indiana
Robert M. Hanes, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
William H. Putnam, Hartford, Connecticut
Max Guggenheim, Lynchburg, Virginia
Mrs. Bert Printz, Youngstown, Ohio

Another twenty-one sponsors have served for more than fifteen years; altogether 158 current sponsors have served five years or more. We think of the service of Association sponsors with admiration and deep appreciation, and gladly pay tribute to their aid to the recreation movement. ■



Henry S. Curtis
Supervisor of Playgrounds
Washington, D. C.



Lee F. Hanmer
Russell Sage Foundation
New York, New York



Luther Halsey Gulick, M.D.
Educator and Leader
New York, New York



SUSAN M. LEE
Second Vice-President
New York, N. Y.



PAUL MOORE, JR.
First Vice-President
Jersey City, N. J.



OTTO T. MALLORY
Chairman of the Board
Philadelphia, Pa.



GRANT TITSWORTH
Third Vice-President
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F. GREGG
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Boston, Mass.



MRS. ROBERT WOODS
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HOWARD H.
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RIEGEL
Montchanin, Del.



WILLIAM S.
SIMPSON
Bridgeport, Conn.



MRS. W. M. L.
VAN AKEN
Edgemont, Pa.



FREDERICK M.
WARBURG
New York, N. Y.

Meet Today's Officers and Board Members

The National Recreation Association is happy to introduce the members of its board, that group of outstanding citizens which carries the responsibility for the policy making and interpretation of the Association and its services, and for building financial support for the Association. Its members give and raise a substantial percentage of the NRA's contribution income.

The *Challenge of Today's Leisure*

Joseph Prendergast

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY of the National Recreation Association coincides with the approximate beginning of what is being described by many as the second industrial revolution. No exact date pinpoints its start, but it is worth noting that we only began to hear about automation approximately eight years ago, and that atomic energy has only recently become a household phrase.

It is most appropriate that this anniversary comes at a time when America is on the verge of reaching higher goals of material wealth and security than ever before. Already it is evident that another significant result of this new technology will be greater leisure for all people.

To get the most out of leisure living, the individual needs to have opportunity to choose from a wide range of recreation activities. This individual choice is determined in large part by the quantity and quality of recreation leadership, organization, and the land available in the community.

The responsibility of the community for the organization of land for recreation cannot be overemphasized. It is possible to postpone decisions on whether or not to add new programs of instruction in baseball, swimming, or golf, for instance; but the setting aside of lands for golf courses, playgrounds, parks, athletic fields, boating facilities, and all of the other badly needed recreation areas and facilities cannot be postponed. If we hesitate for long, open space becomes housing developments, factories, or throughways.

Bold and decisive local leadership needs to tackle this problem immedi-

ately in almost every community in the country. Far too many recreation officials have set their sights for land far too low because they underestimate the intelligence, foresight, and understanding of the average citizen. There is entirely too much settling for less-than-standard because of a fear that communities are not "ready" for recreation. We still have a long way to go before community planning for recreation reaches the status needed for an age of automation. But the people of many communities are ready to go much farther now in meeting their recreation needs than is often realized.

Recreation leadership also needs the immediate attention of both the recreation profession and the citizen leader in the community. There will need to be countless more skilled and trained leaders as administrators, supervisors, and activity leaders in the new and expanding programs. In addition, there will need to be community recreation executives who can function as community executive secretaries for the countless number of volunteer recreation groups and organizations. Another kind of recreation personnel badly needed will be the recreation counselor who can give individual guidance for leisure living just as a guidance counselor now does in the vocational field.

There is also need for the type of citizen leadership which gives expression to the interests and needs of the people and sees that they are realized. Although recreation is achieving institutional status in the community as an official tax-supported function, continuing citizen interest, advice, and counsel must be encouraged.

Recreation must be a grass-roots program to be effective. Official and advisory recreation and park boards and

commissions are indispensable. But, beyond this, there needs to be citizen organizations to keep recreation programs closely related to the changing and growing recreation needs of all of the people.

The experiences in the field of education offer an interesting comparison. Although school boards of citizens administer the public school, communication between the public and the schools has been termed largely inadequate by the recent White House Conference on Education. At the conference, the discussion on how to improve public interest in education urged a wider use of citizen advisory groups as well as expanded public information programs.

One of the great values of the National Recreation Association is its bringing together in a single organization both professional recreation leaders and citizens interested in the development of the recreation movement. In the years ahead this blending of the two kinds of leadership will continue to keep the recreation movement a people's movement.

Whenever more than one person is involved in a recreation activity some organization—of an informal nature, at least—is involved. And in order to plan, develop, and operate recreation lands and buildings for the people of an entire community a great deal of formal organization is absolutely necessary. An awareness of the importance of recreation organization will grow as we move farther into the age of automation. Hospitals, schools, churches, industry, the armed forces and the community all must have organizations so that the individual will have the framework through which he can fulfill his leisure needs.

The first objective in every commu-

MR. PRENDERGAST is executive director of the National Recreation Association.

nity is for a recreation department concerned with community-wide needs for recreation. Last year there were more than one hundred communities which established such departments for the first time. Out of a total of 2,438 communities of over 5,000 population there are now 1,252 municipalities with public recreation agencies providing services twelve months a year. Hundreds more have part-time programs.

As important as are land, leaders, and organization as recreation resources, they do not by themselves provide all the elements needed to meet the challenge of the new leisure created by automation and atomic energy. How the American people use their new leisure—and this is really what constitutes the challenge—will be determined also by their attitudes toward leisure and by their leisure skills and knowledges.

One of the great values of being old enough to have a history is that the experiences and knowledge of the past can often throw new light on the problems of the present. The importance of leisure attitudes and leisure skills were

recognized quite a number of years ago by one of the great leaders in the recreation movement, my predecessor as executive director of the National Recreation Association, Howard Braucher.

Twenty-two years ago, Mr. Braucher wrote in an editorial for RECREATION Magazine about a basic American attitude concerning work which was holding back the whole recreation movement from its greatest contribution to human welfare. America is in the process now of re-evaluating its attitudes toward leisure, recreation, play, and work. More leisure, more personal income, and increased education are creating a new climate of public opinion, new attitudes favorable to recreation. Community recreation leadership must help shape these new attitudes so that they will provide the framework within which individuals can truly enjoy a freedom to live.

One of the lessons profit-making organizations have learned over a period of years is that America's tastes and skills are constantly improving. In spite of the head-shakers and nay-sayers, the level of education, cultural taste, and leisure skills is constantly going up.

While some may want to bring back the "good old days" when people were more amateurish about their recreation activities, the fact is that more and more people are becoming experts at a great many kinds of non-working activities. As people become more skill-

ed at recreation they demand quality programs and opportunities. They will not accept shoddy and inferior activities and experiences for themselves or their children.

Leaders in the recreation movement would do well to look to the future with an eye on one of the planks in the *Fundamentals in Community Recreation* platform developed a number of years ago by the National Recreation Association in cooperation with recreation officials and educators. That plank reads: "That the emphasis [of community recreation] ought to be not only on maintaining certain activities on playgrounds and in recreation centers, but also and definitely on the training of the entire people in leisure-time activities, so that within the home, in the church and throughout all natural, human relationships there shall be the best opportunity for wholesome good times."

Planned programs of recreation education, not only formally in the classroom, but through informal programs in the community will be an important need in the years ahead.

The "challenge of leisure—1956" is a far cry from the "challenge of leisure—1906." The need then involved how and where children would spend their free time. The need now concerns all people, of all ages, and reaches deep into the complexities of human relations and individual growth. ■

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Philosophies Upon Which We Built

Play

A GREAT obstacle in interpreting the child to grown people is that we have no word which stands for the most important factor in the child's life. And the difficulty is enhanced by the fact that the word which we actually use to designate this factor has a significance almost diametrically opposed to the nature of the thing itself and helps continually to mislead us upon the subject. "Play," to grown people, signifies something of secondary importance: it is the word for those activities that must be postponed to serious pursuits. . . . "Child's play," especially, means whatever is ridiculously easy. To the child, upon the other hand, play is the most important thing there is. It is primary, comes first in interest, represents real life; it is what all the rest is for. It is difficult, making an infinite and insatiable demand for power and courage. It is authoritative, required, not to be slighted without shame. Play is the child. In it he wreaks himself. It is the letting loose of what is in him, the active projection of the force he is, the becoming of what he is to be.

And not only do we call the child's dearest interests by a name implying that they are of negligible importance, but we heighten the misunderstanding by (very properly) calling the same identical interests when they appear in grown people by a variety of high-sounding names—such as work, art, science, patriotism, idealism, genius—that we never think of applying to children's play. . . .

In these various ways we have obscured to ourselves the truth—in any case difficult to perceive from our standpoint—that children's play and the highest expressions of our grown-up life are in very truth the same.

Play is Serious

It is the supreme seriousness of play that gives it its educational importance. Education, as we have all learned, is not simply a matter of accumulating knowledge. We are now learning the further truth, which Froebel taught, that it is not even a matter of acquiring power, of training the muscles and the mind. We aim to develop power; we train the muscles and the mind; but we are no longer content unless these serve as avenues to something deeper. The question is not of learning, nor yet of power, but of character. If the lesson has struck home, the result is not merely more knowledge or more intelligence, but more boy or girl—more of a person there for all purposes. If his arithmetic has truly reached him, he will play better football; if his football has been the real thing, he will do better at arithmetic. That is the test of a true educational experience—that it leaves a larger personality behind. . . . It is only what you put the whole of yourself into that will give you a greater self in return.

This characteristic of the true educational experience is possessed by play and, to the full extent, by play alone. It is

only in his play that the child's whole power is called forth, that he gets himself entirely into what he does. . . . Play is like a chemical reaction; in it the child's nature leaps out toward its own and takes possession.—JOSEPH LEE, in *Play and Education*.

A Discovery as Important as the Use of Atomic Energy

MAKING use of the power of the atom is a great achievement in the physical world. We cannot tell where this may lead.

An equally great discovery of our times is the power there is in recreation in making it possible and easy for all people to live richly, deeply, vitally, each day. . . .

In the home and in the neighborhood where there is alive ness to . . . the joy of doing many things together, where the recreation way of life prevails, where each person finds it possible to be the man his inner nature demands, then man is more fully man and so many of the ills of society fall away. . . .

Build life strong through recreation and you help to lessen poor physical and mental health, delinquency and crime and much of ill will. But, if instead of thinking of building life itself you start out merely to work consciously for lessening crime and insanity, you are apt to lose out in your objective. That which is lost if sought directly may be had if it is not sought. The bluebird easily flies away.

This is the law of the world which we the people have discovered for ourselves—Give us strong, permanently satisfying daily life, give us daily opportunity for growth through activity we ourselves have chosen, help us each day to have freedom to do the things that belong to complete manhood—do this and most other things shall be added unto us.

In the spiritual world the discovery of recreation, of the recreative way of life, is as great a discovery as electricity, as potent as the finding of the power of the atom in the physical realm.

Man cannot live by machinery alone. When men ask for warm human living shall we give them machinery?

. . . It is in our power now, under God, through the recreative way of life to develop such living in our homes and in our neighborhoods that we all may feel that we live on holy ground, that many shrubs about us are burning bushes, that the land of heart's desire is not something far off, that all who share a common beauty are brothers, that all who have learned to share common activity with little money and little price are part of a very great democracy.

It is everlastingly important to build this way of daily living.

The power of the atom is such that we may have little time for building the greatest of all democracies—democracy in living itself.—HOWARD BRAUCHER, in *A Treasury of Living*.

Community Cooperation



"Handfuls from Home"

This was the name of a unique ceremony held recently at the newest park site in San Leandro, California. Prompted by the need for nine thousand cubic yards of soil to fill a future recreation area to proper grade, the ceremony was planned so that the children from James Madison School, which adjoins the new five-acre Bonaire Park site, might deposit dirt which they had carried from home. A suggestion by Rex Tussing, editor of the *San Leandro Morning News*, started the ball rolling when he wrote:

"The City of San Leandro has set aside a park area next to James Madison School in the Bonaire community. But the land is sunken and low, soggy, and fills with water in winter-time. We would like to see the children of Madison School, all of them, some day soon bring to school a little package of soil from their own backyards.

"If those hundreds of packages of home soil are then mixed with the alien heaps brought in by truck and bulldozer, the hundreds of handfuls from home can have a wonderful effect on all the children and all their families. The park, the playground, will become their own possession, an extension of their own homes, part of their lives. The park will belong to the children and the children belong to the park. No other act could so truly make it a community park. And they will feel, 'This is my land, and I will care for it, and protect it, and help it.'

School children assemble at the park site with hundreds of little packages of soil—their "handfuls from home."



These instances are typical of exciting community "do-it-yourself" activities which are stirring throughout the country. They are the fruits of successful over-all interpretation of recreation needs, and auger well for the challenging years ahead.

"And for their whole lifetime, they will remember that they helped create a park, and that park was theirs and always will be theirs, wherever they may later wander. And in their adult lives they, too, will help provide for their children and the future."

Principal Loyce L. McCormick and the children of Madison School were quick to act upon this suggestion. In a few days the entire enrollment of the school marched to the adjoining park site. At the given signal, sacks of dirt were emptied, each child having brought from home his small contribution—both a real and a symbolic one—to the completion of the new recreation area.

On the heels of this event, and inspired by it, other contributions of soil were made, some large, some small. Contractors working in the area delivered it in truckloads. Others, impressed by the keen desire of the community for early completion of the park, added their bit. When the county of Alameda broke ground for a new branch court house, for instance, a sack of dirt for the park was collected and delivered personally by Francis Dunn of the county board of supervisors. The procedure has been repeated at recent ground-breaking ceremonies for industrial plants; and many residents of the area have added their deposits of dirt by the truckload, sackful, and trailerload.

Spurred on by such interest in the project, a volunteer Citizens' Committee for Development of Bonaire Park be-

Junior traffic patrol remains to remove empty sacks. Ceremony leads contractors to give truckloads of dirt.



for Recreation

came very active, seeking more dirt, raising money and making plans to aid with other phases of development.—ROSS A. CUNNINGHAM, *Director of Recreation, San Leandro, California.*

"Operation Brush-Off"

More than forty-five acres of land were cleared by volunteer workers on a Saturday last spring as Bellingham's community project, "Operation Brush-Off." Sponsored by the Bellingham Junior Chamber of Commerce, this project proved to be a tremendous success. Volunteers were helping clear the land for a new seventy-acre athletic field. The Whatcom County loggers, Bellingham Junior Chamber of Commerce members, Park Department employees and citizen volunteers teamed up some one hundred and fifty strong for the clearing and grubbing. A saving to the city of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 was estimated. Altogether, close to \$650,000 in volunteer equipment and manpower was represented at this operation.

At this time the brush was too damp for burning and the piles of slash were left until late summer to permit thorough drying. Five tons of rubber tires and about three tons of sawdust were distributed throughout the area, near slash piles, to be used in the final burning. Of the remaining acreage in the athletic field, some ten acres were covered by evergreens and did not need clearing in the immediate future. The remaining acreage was already clear. Work on the survey could begin immediately.—HERBERT J. OLSON, *Superintendent of Parks, Bellingham, Washington.*

Neshaminy Valley Youth Center

The organizations of our small town (Newton, Pennsylvania, population approximately twenty-two hundred) became concerned about the mounting crime wave throughout the country and wanted to do something for the local teenagers. The only recreation facilities outside of school were churches, movies, a bowling alley, and pool room. The guidance teacher from the high school was chosen to be in charge of the preliminary arrangements. She was aided by the backing of the principal and a spirited high school group. An enthusiastic assembly of adults who were also determined to be of help included representatives of the following local organizations: League of Women Voters, women's clubs, American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Council of Churches, Exchange Club, PTA, Newton Fire Company, and St. Andrew's Parish. A retired business executive was eventually persuaded to head the entire program.

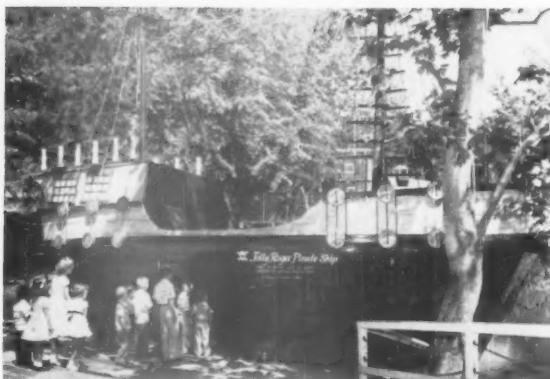
The American Legion rooms were offered for meetings on Monday nights. Plans were made for a youth center, and a name was chosen. Many good times were had there, but the rooms soon proved too small and neighbors were upset by the unusual gathering of large numbers of young people;



Youth in recreation is symbolized by this outdoor photograph of young Virginia Porter of Neshaminy Valley.

so another place had to be found. This was accomplished through the generosity of an old Newton family, who agreed to let us use a large building which had been standing vacant in the center of town. Funds needed to put it into working shape were raised—\$25,000 in all—through a concentrated drive by the now large group who were backing the program. This was started off with a torchlight parade to the ballgrounds where Paul Whiteman and Ezra Stone, of "Henry Aldrich" fame, were guest speakers. A house-to-house canvass was also part of the campaign, all money being raised through contributions.

After the new quarters were remodeled the problem of leadership arose. Various plans failed and it was finally decided that only a trained, experienced director would succeed. Now a capable man with several years of YMCA work is in charge. There are hobby groups, hay rides, cookouts, roller-skating parties, swimming instruction, fencing, and archery. In summer there is a day camp. The center is now a beneficiary of the Bucks County Community Chest and receives donations from individuals as well as from the Newton Welfare Council and from membership dues. The center is increasingly accepted and used by adults as well as by youngsters.—MRS. ROLAND W. PORTER, *Newton, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.*



A pirate ship is part of this land of childhood dreams come true. Approximately \$12,000 raised for project.

Stockton Builds Its Own

Pixie Woods, Stockton, California's children's wonderland, is a fine example of what the citizens of a community can do working hand-in-hand with city officials and parks and recreation departments. It is the result of an idea conceived in 1954. Conception and fulfillment, as we all know, sometimes take quite a "bit of doing," and the wonderland, a fairyland atmosphere, must be based on hard facts and, of course, dollars and cents.

A tour was arranged to visit a neighboring city which had developed a similar project. Service club representatives were invited to attend, and their enthusiasm was immediately apparent. They quickly formed a committee for fund raising and promotion, and inaugurated a contest to name our area.

Within a short time, this non-profit corporation's board of directors had raised approximately \$12,000. They then appeared before the Stockton City Council and asked the city to provide a site, protective fencing, walkways, landscaping and that, after the project was built, the city maintain and operate it.

It was constructed by an assistant in the parks and recreation department, Harri Veregge, who designed and supervised its development. The director of the department, Emil Seifert, and Mr. Veregge worked closely with the Pixie Woods Board of Directors. In June the project was opened to the public, under Mr. Seifert's direction.

Now you may enter this land of children's dreams come true over a drawbridge, which spans the Magic Black River, into the Fairy Castle portals and you are in Pixie Woods.

You may bike into the small hills and visit the Seven Dwarfs busily working in their mine and slide down their ore shoot. Over the hill you may see the Three Billy Goats Gruff. You may travel along the path to Flip the Seal and his mate gaily cavorting in a large pond or sliding down their own private causeway. You may ride a metal horse through Japanese-Land or visit Farmer McGregor on his farm, complete with real live animals, cows, chickens, ducks.

Little Boy Blue is asleep under his haystack and the sheep are in the meadows, while the Three Pigs bask in front of their houses of sticks, straw, and bricks. You may visit the Gingerbread House and purchase goodies, cross Jimminy Cricket Crick and climb upon the back of the friendly dragon

or slide down the neck of Cecily G., the Gentle Giraffe. You may fish from the fishing pier in a well-stocked pond, or you can go aboard the Jolly Roger Pirate Ship and look through its rotting sides to see the denizens of the deep. Programs are arranged daily in the open-air amphitheatre; and the Firehouse Pixie Woods Fire Brigade waits for call and you may ring the bell on the fire engine and climb to your heart's content. The Crooked Man has built his Crooked House here with a Crooked Slide for you to enjoy.

These are a few of the many things that spark the child's imagination. Pixie Woods is truly a project built with community spirit and cooperation.

Old-Time School Retired for Fun

The Portland, Oregon, Bureau of Parks and Recreation made an exchange with the school administration, trading two parcels of land, valued at around \$43,000, for a former school building. A recreation center was needed in this particular area to offset less desirable attractions of commercially-operated recreation places and to serve the increasingly large number of new families moving into the neighborhood. The Knott Street Center is its official title, but the neighbors chummily call it "Natty Nell of Knott Street," because of the gay colors used in its new role as a recreation center.

More redecoration than remodeling was needed in the initial facelifting job, as the building was structurally sound. The outside had recently been repainted; but 253 gallons of paint, shellac and thinner were needed before the interior was completed. These, together with wallpaper, cost \$746.25. Recreation supervisors at the center tossed in their services as non-professional decorators.

Stimulating color combinations and furnishings revealed skill and careful planning and added immensely to the general attractiveness of the building. Particularly effective murals in several of the rooms were contributed free by the artist, Oliver Dillner. Coat rooms adjoining each former classroom are extremely convenient, and big windows let in lots of light and sunshine. The cost of adapting the old schoolhouse was not negligible, but it was much less costly than building a new center and had the added advantage of taking much less time in preparation.—RUTH STRODE, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Portland, Oregon. ■

Gayly redecorated, this old school turned into recreation center is now known as "Natty Nell of Knott St."



Field Services TODAY

Charles E. Reed

THE RAPID increase in the nation's population and its mobility have greatly accelerated the demands for service from the National Recreation Association's Field Department. What has come about is a great increase in the number of communities and local agencies wanting help with the new and complex public recreation and park problems this situation has presented to them.

More Communities Served. Cities in which the NRA helped to establish tax-supported recreation programs in past years continue to want help from field service in efforts to expand their own services to meet growing demands. Simultaneously, many more small communities than heretofore are seeking assistance in organizing new programs on a year-round basis with full-time directors. The NRA field representatives could not possibly visit all of these places, so they have been bringing together key leaders from one limited area after another and, from a central point, giving these localities the information and counsel they desire to enable them to organize and secure the funds and leaders to provide necessary local programs. Consequently such area conferences of one- and two-day duration in the districts over the country have extended the Association's services to many more localities.

In 1955, a total of 3,837 communities were registered with NRA for field service—an increase from 2,312 the previous year. One important result was that 107 communities organized and established new permanent departments of tax-supported recreation service on a year-round basis.

New and More Complex Problems Presented. Communities, medium size as well as larger cities, are confronted increasingly with growing problems of the unincorporated so-called "fringe" areas outside of corporate boundaries. The normal urban centers lack the funds, facilities, and leadership to provide for the mounting demand for recreation services from these new sections. For the first time, many situations involve planning for such new services on a county-wide or district basis. New patterns of organization, administration, financing, program planning are called for.

Throughout all of the Association's field districts, leaders in these areas are bringing their problems to the field workers for help. To meet these critical and difficult problems demands the very best knowledge and experience the Association can muster from its fifty years of work nationally. In a number of the more difficult of these situations, the Association has been asked to make intensive studies and prepare long-range plans to guide the combined city and county governing authorities. During the year, fifteen such

sprawling areas established for the first time: (1) five new county-wide recreation districts, (2) five organized programs on a township basis, and (3) five additional areas organized new park, recreation and parkway districts—all designed to provide a wider base of service and financing to meet the over-all need.

More Basic and Long-Range Planning Assistance Requested. These important changes in community patterns over the country have greatly accelerated the demand for additional land for playgrounds, parks, neighborhood play-fields, and other types of recreation facilities. Never in the Association's history have so many communities requested help in specific long-range plans and recommendations.

During 1955 the Association was consulted in connection with ninety-four different surveys, area plans, and conferences by fifty-six cities in twenty-one states.

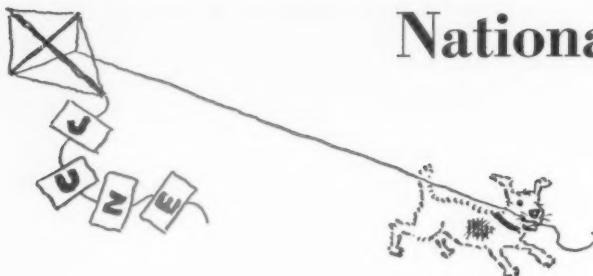
Increased Need for More and Better Qualified Leaders. The greater expansion of community interest and the extension of facilities inevitably have brought more demand for the Association to help with recruiting, training and placement of additional recreation leaders. The training specialists of the Association's field staff were called in by communities in practically all geographic districts last year. As a result, a total of 10,235 paid and volunteer workers were given training. The filling of 310 important recreation positions involved services by the Association's Recreation Personnel Services at our national office.

Increased Financing Problems in Localities. All these demands for extended service throughout the country have brought correspondingly important problems of local financing of such expanded service. The number of local campaigns for bond issues and special recreation levies meant more demands from communities for assistance in organizing such campaigns and with problems of financing facilities and for meeting operating costs.

Assistance Given State Recreation Agencies. Each year brings more interest and desire among key state agencies—departments of parks, recreation, conservation and education—to make their services available to localities. Frequently two or more such state agencies offer similar services. NRA has considered it important and urgent to give consulting assistance to these groups on the best way in which to make their services effective and to avoid duplication. The most valuable help given has been to bring those agencies together for fuller acquaintance and understanding of each other's efforts and resources. In many instances, NRA field workers have been directly responsible for setting up state inter-agency committees on recreation as clearing houses for consideration of the various problems involved. Periodically, meetings of these committees have resulted in more deliberate planning and channeling of state agency services to local communities.

Difficult problems of establishing new and/or separate state departments or agencies specifically to handle state recreation services have also arisen. In many cases new legislation is required and the various state agencies and other leaders have wanted the Association's experience and advice regarding these important proposals. ■

MR. REED is director of the National Recreation Association Field Services.



National Recreation Month

Community action for recreation is highlighted in June, in observation of this Golden Anniversary year of the NRA.

David DuBois

JUNE is the month when America goes out of doors for its summer recreation, and this year it will be literally "bustin' out all over" with every kind of recreation activity within the broad range of leisure living—sports and athletics, music, drama, arts and crafts, camping, boating, and so on. Why? Because June has been proclaimed National Recreation Month by the National Recreation Association at the request of recreation leaders. Many have felt the need for a special day, week, or month to focus public attention upon recreation and its importance for satisfying living.

National Recreation Month, therefore, is being used as an occasion to inform the public about the growing hours of leisure provided by dramatic new changes in modern industrial production. It will point up the need for community planning to provide a framework of choice for enjoyment of this non-working time.

During this special month local citizens from all walks of life in communities across the country, will receive special honors for their contributions to the recreation life of their community. A distinctive Fiftieth Anniversary citation from the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association is being awarded to those who have given outstanding leadership in establishing or extending community recreation programs, who have been responsible for the setting aside of lands for recreation use, or who in other ways have helped the community recreation movement in their community.

Not only individuals, but local civic and service clubs are eligible for these special citations. Nominations for the awards have been made by affiliate

member agencies of the Association. Individuals nominated will receive, in addition, honorary membership in the National Recreation Association district in which they reside.

A preview of the June presentations occurred when Mrs. Freda Ameringer of Oklahoma City, a local sponsor of the National Recreation Association, received the first local citizen's citation in the offices of the Association in April.

Mrs. Ameringer was in New York to be honored as "Club Woman of the Year" by the *Woman's Home Companion* for her leadership in a project sponsored by her city's Pilot Club to develop a recreation center in the city's poverty-stricken South Side. During World War II the club provided recreation services for the area in their own club-rooms. After the war the group undertook a campaign for a municipally owned, operated, and professionally staffed recreation center.

Mrs. Ameringer persuaded the city council to include funds for the project in a bond issue. One of the conditions of approval was that the Pilots provide

\$10,000 for equipment. Mrs. Ameringer headed the finance committee which raised the money as well as an additional \$5,000.

Of Mrs. Ameringer, Stanley Draper, manager of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, said: "She well deserves every honor that comes to her because she is a truly unique person—a woman who wants only the best for other people."

Joseph Prendergast, executive director of the National Recreation Association, added: "The Association is proud of your service to Oklahoma City and to the national recreation movement."

National Recreation Month is the first nation-wide observance of the important part recreation plays in the lives of everyone. Since recreation is truly a movement of the people, by the people, and for the people, it is especially fitting that local civic leaders be honored at this time. In the pursuit of happiness, community action for recreation has come to have a high priority on the list of the civic improvements. ■



FIRST LOCAL CITIZEN'S AWARD of the National Recreation Association. Mrs. Freda Ameringer of Oklahoma City (center), receives citation from Otto T. Mallory and Susan M. Lee (left), of the NRA Board.

MR. DU BOIS is head of the NRA Public Information Service.

How People Choose Their Recreation

ARE WE, as recreation leaders, exposing our community people to a recreation cafeteria? Are we as smart in displaying our smorgasbord of activities as the purveyors of comestibles? These are questions I've asked myself many times.

The chefs who arrange the appetite teasers at buffet luncheons, smorgasbords, and cafeterias display a rare knowledge of psychology which really sells the gastronomic delights. Do you ever find the meats and vegetables first in line? Of course not! You do find pies with meringue an inch thick, cakes with frostings in contrasting colors, salads with a pretty girl behind them saying, "One or two spoons of mayonnaise?" She never says, "You don't want any of this stuff, do you?" (As I write this, the television commercial from the next room is suggesting a bubble-and-fizz concoction for those who have overeaten and have an upset stomach.)

Let's continue pushing our trays down the line. Here are the sizzles that sell the steaks, according to Elmer Wheeler, the roast beef, fish, stew, fried chicken, deviled crab, and then the vegetables, breads and drinks. You take two vegetables in addition to your rice and gravy so the counter girl won't think you a dietetic moron.

Actually, most of us have a substantial knowledge about proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals, and calories; but we throw it to the wind as we load our trays for the masticating marathon. People are not as well equipped for the selection of recreation

Are we a help? Do people choose their activities from our display of goods?

Nathan Mallison

activities and hobbies to round out their lives as they are to choose a balanced meal; because the choice of suitable recreation is not as exact a science as nutrition. It isn't strange that people on a vacation overindulge in recreation when suddenly confronted with a host of appealing opportunities to engage in many activities, considering that people who know better go on food binges. The big tragedy is that some do no choosing recreationally. They are like the man with a stomach ulcer at a banquet.

Examining the parallel between the provision pantry and the recreation refectory further, we find that man has certain appetites or interests which impel him to engage in certain activities, if the opportunity is available. Leibert H. Weir called them the great leisure-time interests. Other recreation philosophers have also identified these interests as physical, creative, dramatic, rhythmic, linguistic, environmental, social, civic, religious, nurturing, and vicarious. Shakespeare made a remark in *Julius Caesar*, which, taken out of context, might apply, "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted,

all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries."

Those who find the opportunities for expression favorable, when interests manifest themselves, will develop skills that provide pleasure and a sense of achievement. The activities providing the most satisfaction may become lifetime hobbies. The person who has a balance of continuing interests, involving physical, creative and culture activities, will find his life enriched through the years with better health, stimulating mental experiences, and a youthful spirit.

It is gratifying to note that the voluntary selection of leisure pastimes, without scientific guidance, has produced so much happiness. Since it is our job to provide recreation for all, we must educate people to know recreation values as well as they know calories, vitamin requirements, mineral content of foods and the differences between proteins, fats, and carbohydrates. Our challenge is to eliminate recreation illiteracy, lest some become pathological cases whose lives fit the last half of Shakespeare's quotation, "Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries."

What steps are indicated to answer the dual challenge of those who need only the opportunity to find their recreation niche in the world and those who fail to develop interests which result in appealing leisure pastimes?

First, let's copy the cafeteria and try to keep up an attractive display of our products, so temptingly exhibited that all may have their recreation appetites whetted. These are our silent salesmen! Since "a good example is better than a sermon," we might examine a few

MR. MALLISON is superintendent of recreation in Jacksonville, Florida.

that have been effective.

The fact that these examples have a Florida flavor is due to their proximity. St. Petersburg, whose recreation department plays host to a fine group of senior citizens from many states, does a splendid display job in several divisions of its work. A former U. S. maritime academy, rechristened "Sunshine University," has at least ten kinds of craftwork in progress most of the day and night, each in a separate shop or room to welcome those with a creative urge. Three hundred shuffleboard courts beckon others to enjoyment at beautiful Mirror Lake Center, because the people on them are happily engaged.

In Jacksonville, Joseph Lee Day is a good front-window galaxy of activities for youngsters. Another is the "Parade of Hobbies and Activities" on television, which is usually seen by several hundred thousand more than would see a static display. Lilliputian floats, portraying various recreation activities, are placed in each civic parade for 25,000 to see and remember. The model airplane club puts on the half-time show at the big Pro Charity Football Game and 40,000 see model flying instead of the 4,000 which would normally see a model meet. If the game is televised, many more see the Flying Rebels in a miniature dogfight. Hundreds of other examples, featuring a great variety of displays that sell recreation, might be described. Let's have a session at the Philadelphia Congress with the topic, "What's in Your Cafeteria of Activities?"

Closely allied to the cafeteria idea of displaying a varied and appealing assortment of wares is the necessity of interpreting the recreation concept for the use of leisure. This might be considered the education part of our program. The visual part of our display tells what we do, the audio part tells why and how we do it. An articulate supervisory staff, from the superin-

tendent on down, utilizing every opportunity to appear before school assemblies and civic groups, and on radio or television, is a strong anchor at the end of the education chain.

Clinics help spectators as well as participants to understand activities. Many cities, at the start of each football season, hold a free pigskin clinic in the stadium. A player is dressed on the field and the cost of his equipment explained. Basic plays and formations are shown and explained. Officials show violations and penalties with the hand signals for each. All the local bands show some of their choice half-time maneuvers. Even the ladies learn that two halfbacks don't make a fullback.

Forums on television and before live audiences can bring out many interesting points about recreation. The medical profession, which frowns on advertising, has done a splendid job of informing the public with forums and presenting some of its accomplished members for recognition. Can we do less?

A panel of teen-agers can provide an interesting evening for a recreation expert—and the audience—in a question-and-answer session. A variation of this might be worked out in the style of "What's My Line?"—which might be changed to "What's My Hobby?" with a prize for the most graphic description or demonstration.

Reports, pamphlets, and demonstrations should be included in the education part of one's job. Demonstrations would be appropriate during National Recreation Week or Month.

Let's consider another step in the process of education for leisure. Most recreation workers are Jacks-of-all-trades to such an extent that they can supply the answers to casual inquiries about recreation. In that respect, they are capable of giving guidance or serving as counselors to those who are voluntarily seeking information early in

life. However, this is an age of specialization. facetiously, a doctor friend of mine said he was an eye specialist—left eye, under lid. I am not suggesting that we specialize quite that far, but we surely need skilled counselors to advise the recreation illiterates who missed the boat somewhere along the line and never developed a hobby before retirement. This is more important than ever, in an age when the life span is increasing, if people are to stay mentally healthy as long as they remain physically active following their years of productive labor.

We have established techniques to ascertain vocational aptitudes. Isn't it reasonable that we should be able to counsel people in choosing the right recreation as a complement to fruitful work in rounding out a happy life?

Dr. Howard Danford, director of physical education at Florida State University, says there is definite evidence that certain recreations are natural complements to certain vocations. Adequate research may reveal the total pattern. I'm not suggesting a series of tests or anything quite that dreary or formal because recreation is the result of a voluntary act but, rather, a folksy discussion between the inquirer and a counselor with worlds of experience, a broad appreciation of activities, and a sincere desire to assist people in their pursuit of happiness.

By assisting people in this pursuit, we are helping our countrymen to enjoy certain inalienable rights, ascribed to us by our Founding Fathers. They went on further, in the Constitution and said we were united "to promote the general welfare." They wrote this as an eternal reminder that one of the primary purposes in founding our country was to achieve individual well-being. In helping people to choose the right recreation, we are helping to fulfill the American dream—a good life for everyone. ■

"The use of the outdoors to a child is like the use of water to a fish, or almost so. . . . There is water to swim or wade in . . . trees to climb and fall out of . . . smells . . . fraught with memory and association. . . .

"He should also know the outdoors as a home, should build the wood fire and the camp and experience the endearing hospitality of Mother Earth.

"Nature is the source of wonder and imagination. . . . The sky and woods and fields speak with the thousand voices of winds and streams, of trees and flowers and animals. They are the child's book and laboratory, the world to which his mind and feelings are attuned, his counterpart in science and in art."

—From "The Use of the Outdoors" by Joseph Lee, *THE PLAYGROUND*, August 1927.

YOUR ANNIVERSARY ALBUM

Pictures tell the story, or do-you-remember-when?



Dusting off the old recreation album, we find between its covers the reflections of a bygone era—of places, faces, events and years full of purpose and plans, learning-by-doing, fine people, teamwork, and fun. It has caught some few unforgettable moments in the thrilling story of the opening up of a new field in which man strives to be of service to man.



Four units with but a single thought: where will they play? (Promotion picture).



Many such use-less lots are to be transformed into playgrounds.



1907. Howard Beach, a young leader already interested in social conditions, comes from Portland, Maine.



Action on Echo Playground, Los Angeles, about 1907.



In Elmira, N.Y. spirited citizens wield pick and shovel; Mayor Peck is at the plow.



Play in Seward Park, New York. This two and five-eighths acres of land cost the city \$1,800,000 in 1897.





National staff at Recreation Congress Grand Rapids, Mich., 1916.



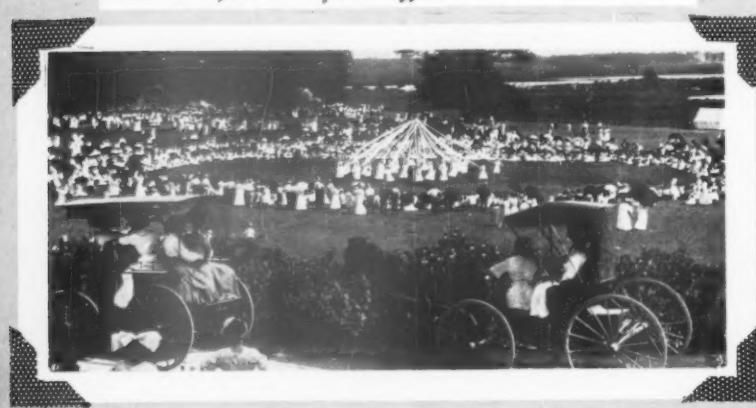
Offices move from apartment to
Floors 30 to 41 in Metropolitan
Life Insurance Tower, One
Madison Ave., New York City.



Atlantic City, 1927. Dr. John Finley,
Mrs. Charles D. Lauer, Mayor Welch
of Yonkers, Joseph Lee.

Gustavus Kirby, Otto Mallory, Howard Brancher,
Walter May, wreathed in Congress smiles.

The Maypole dance on Independence Day, 1912, in Madison,
Wisconsin, was a gala affair.



Dorothy Enderis took recreation job in
Milwaukee, 1912, guided recreation in
that city for thirty-six years.



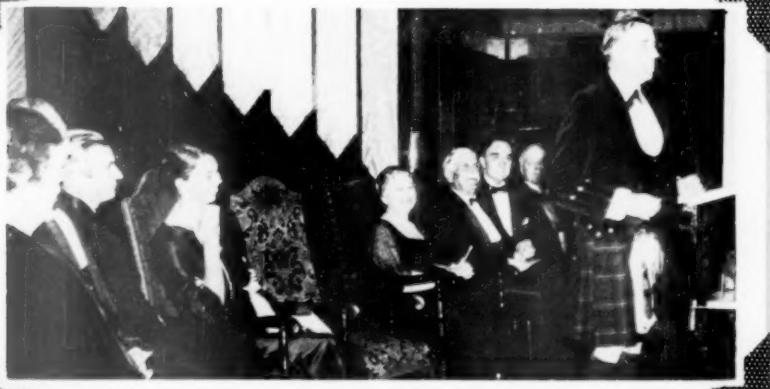
Do we need play in institutions?



*E. T. Atwell joins staff
in March, 1919.*



*The Association moves across
the street to the 17th and 20th
floors of 315 Fourth Avenue
(about 1922).*



*1934 Congress in Washington: Dr. John H. Finley
introduces the speaker, Mrs. Roosevelt. Left
to right: Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, Dr. McCarty,
John Cott, Mrs. Roosevelt, Mrs. Thomas
Edison, Mr. Butterworth, Dr. Daniel
Holmgren, Hon. Austin E. Griffiths.*



*Playgrounds
create an
urgent need
for leader-
ship, a
challenge
for the
Association.*

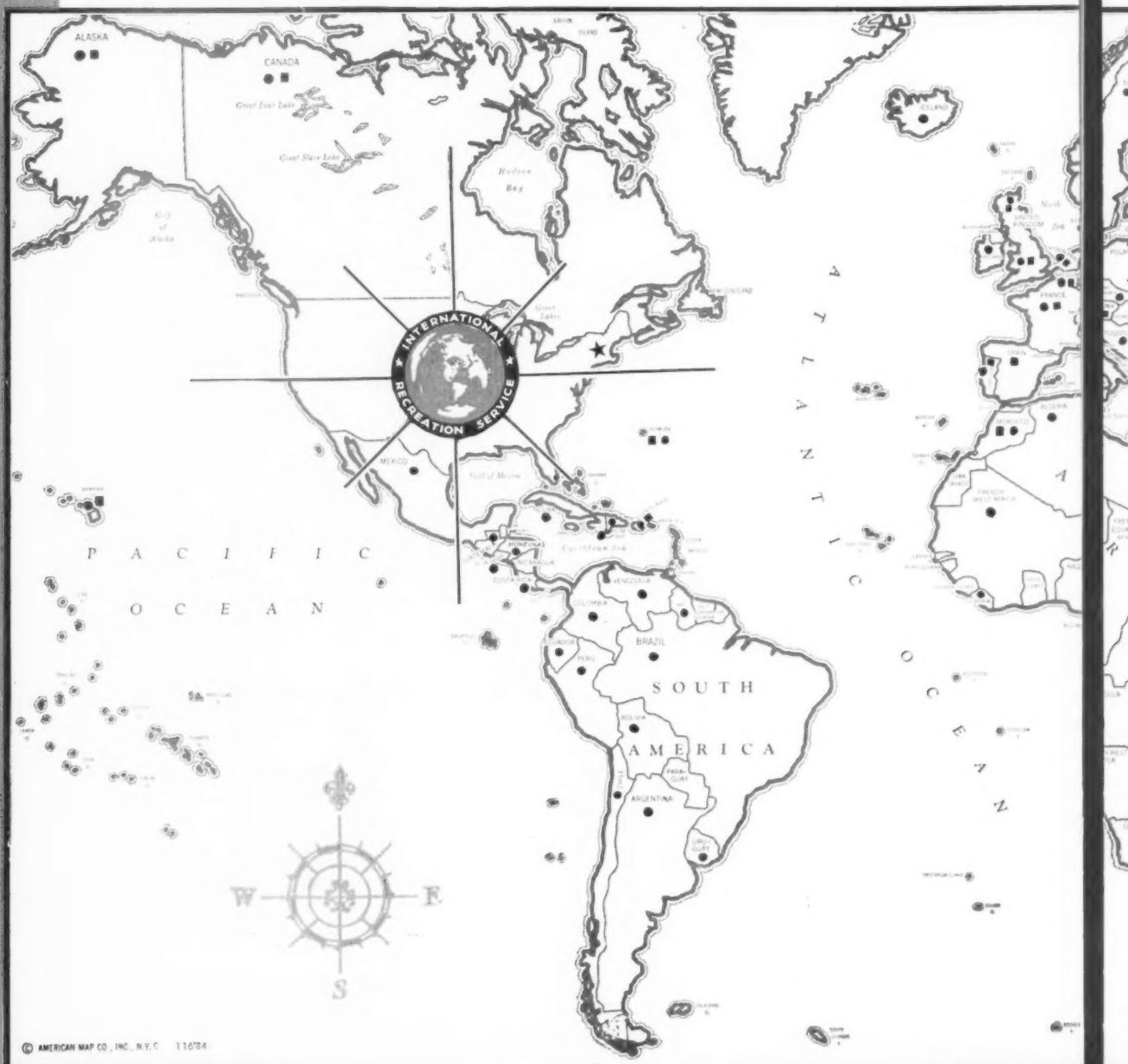


*Rose Schwartz surveys
a few of the Association's
publications for which
she is responsible. She
joined the staff in 1913.*



*New reception room at 8 West Eighth Street, 1956.
Romy (Ella Blaupot), the receptionist, has been with
the Association twenty-seven years.*

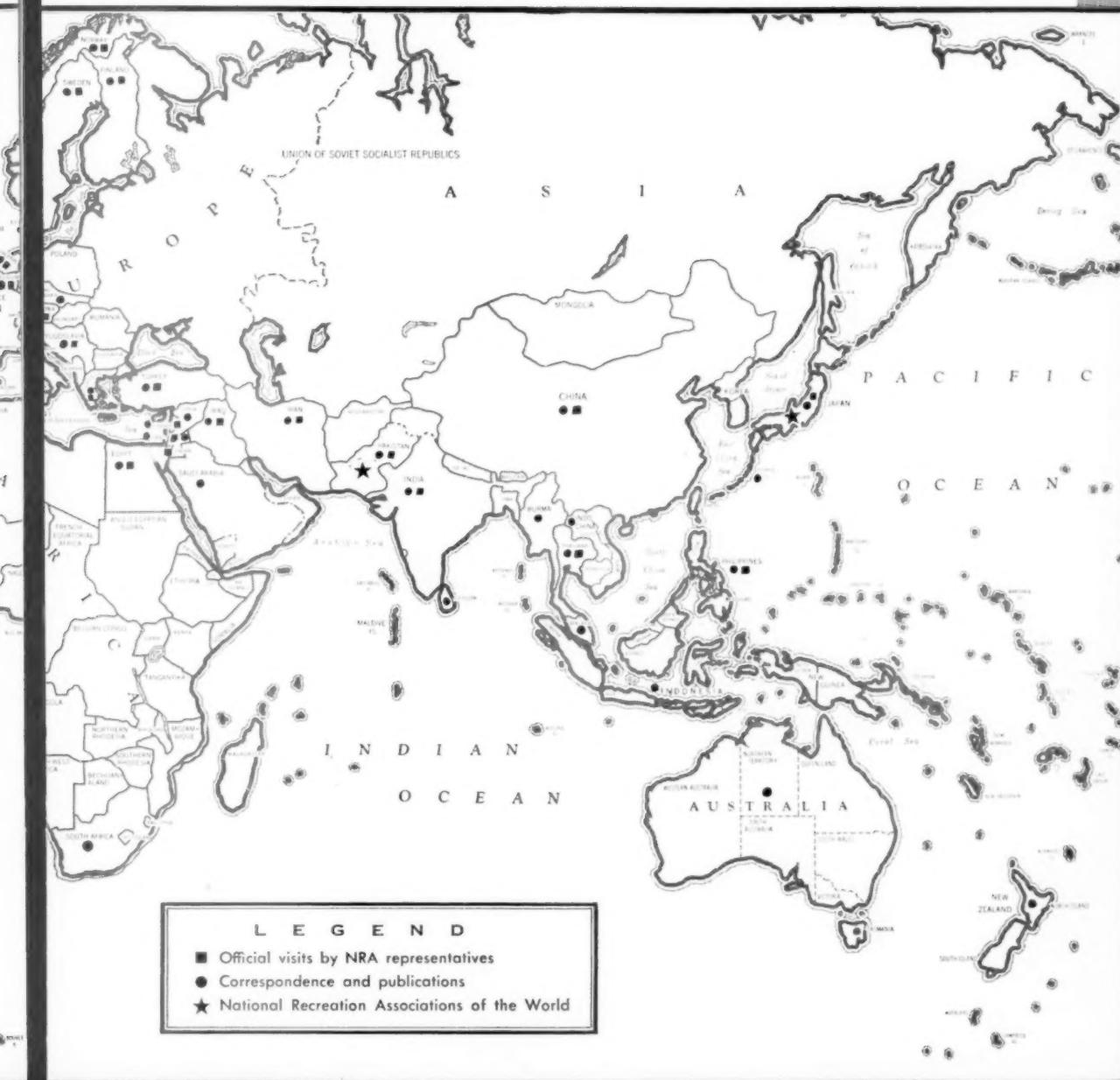
The National Recreation As



In United States—1955:

- 3,837 communities registered for service
- 1,082 field visits
- 3,769 professional and lay leaders at nine district conferences and one Congress
- 10,000 employed and volunteer leaders in 140 cities received leadership training
- 23,449 organizations and individuals in 5,389 communities used correspondence and consultation services

Association Serves the World



Other Countries—1955:

- 22 countries visited by official representatives of NRA
- 91 NRA memberships for organizations and individuals in 14 countries
- 41 countries have subscribers to RECREATION Magazine
- 19 countries are represented on International Recreation Congress Advisory Committee
- 300 communities in 54 countries received correspondence and publications in answer to inquiries.



See You in Philadelphia

The creative use of leisure time forms theme of the big meeting.

THE INTERNATIONAL Recreation Congress will focus the thoughts of the world's recreation leaders on problems of leisure and recreation around the globe.

Recreation is one of the basic human needs of people everywhere because of the contribution which it can and does make to education, character development, happiness, health, safety, citizenship, international understanding. As our world civilization becomes increasingly complex and as hours of leisure expand everywhere, responsible thinking men and women are challenged by the need to provide opportunities for creative use of leisure time, recreation which will truly recreate men, women, and children in body and in spirit.

The Congress will consider such fundamental matters as qualified leadership for recreation; setting aside ample land for parks, playgrounds, recreation buildings; building broad, well-balanced programs of satisfying recreation activities to meet the needs and interests of everyone; providing competent, efficient, thoughtful administration of recreation and leisure-time programs.

On the opposite page is shown an outline of the program for the Congress week and a list of the topics for discussion in the many section meetings which are scheduled. The program includes subjects of interest to American recreation leaders as well as to leaders from other parts of the world.

Additions to the International Advisory Committee for the International Recreation Congress in Philadelphia include the following:

MEXICO—Gabriel Ramirez, Program Director, The Voice of Latin America

PAKISTAN—Dr. G. M. Mekhri, National Recreation Association of Pakistan

The International Advisory Committee is still in the process of formation and it is expected that additional members will agree to serve.

Exhibits

Exhibits at the International Recreation Congress of com-

mercial products designed to help the recreation worker will be the most extensive of any shown at the Congress in recent years. It offers opportunity for companies to introduce their wares internationally as well as nationally. Two large exhibit areas have been set aside at the Bellevue-Stratford, the headquarters hotel. In addition, Reyburn Plaza in the heart of downtown Philadelphia, just a few blocks from the Bellevue-Stratford, will offer a display of a wide variety of outdoor recreation apparatus and power equipment. All exhibit areas will be open throughout the Congress.

There also will be educational exhibits from a great many countries and from a number of cooperating organizations, agencies, and departments in the United States.

Arrangements have been made this year for a Hospitality Center in the new main lobby of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel where delegates, especially those from foreign countries, can immediately get answers to their questions about Philadelphia and the Congress. The city of Philadelphia is planning a special exhibit in the education exhibit area.

One of the high points of the week will be the International Banquet on Thursday evening. This promises to be one of the most colorful and enjoyable sessions of the Congress.

Hotel Reservations

Delegates should make their reservations immediately for hotel accommodations. In addition to the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, cooperating hotels include: Adelphia, Benjamin Franklin, Essex, John Bartram, St. James, and Sylvania. Rates are shown below.

	Single Room	Rooms for Two	
		Double Bed	Twin Beds
Bellevue-Stratford*	\$8.50 - 11.00	\$12.00 - 14.00	\$13.50 - 17.00
Adelphia	6.50 - 7.50	10.50 - 12.00	10.50 - 13.50
Benjamin Franklin	7.00 - 9.00	10.00 - 12.00	14.00 - 16.00
Essex	6.00	9.00	11.00
John Bartram	5.00	8.00	9.00
St. James**	—	9.00	10.00
Sylvania	7.00	10.00	11.00

* Two rooms with connecting bath \$19.00 for three persons, \$22.00 for four persons. Suites also available at \$25.00 to \$35.00 per day.

** Two rooms with connecting bath, \$14.00 for four persons.

Section Meeting Topics

ADMINISTRATION PROBLEMS of Chief Executives
 ADVENTURE — How to Meet the Needs of Young People for It
 ARTS AND CRAFTS — New and Old
 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS in Action
 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES — Recreation for Them the World Over
 CAMPING — How Can We Better Satisfy Desires for Such Opportunities?
 CHURCH GROUPS — Practical Recreation Suggestions
 COMMUNITY RECREATION PROJECTS — "Do-It-Yourself" Principles
 COOPERATION Among Voluntary and Governmental Recreation Agencies
 DRAMA — Creative Experience
 EVALUATING Recreation Workers and Establishing Performance Standards
 FAMILY FUN Around the World
 FINANCE Problems of Recreation — How to Solve Them
 GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S Programs
 ILL AND HANDICAPPED — Recreation for This Group (Several Sessions)
 INDOOR RECREATION CENTERS — New Ideas from Many Lands
 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS for Recreation Leaders
 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION for Recreation
 INTERNATIONAL QUIZ SESSION — What Do You Do About _____?
 LITERATURE for Personal and Department Libraries on Recreation
 LONG-RANGE RECREATION PLANNING for the Community
 MAINTENANCE and EQUIPMENT Workshop
 MILITARY PERSONNEL and Their Families — Programs Around the World

MUSIC — Community Programs Sustaining and Developing Interest Generated in the Schools
 NATURE RECREATION — New Developments
 NEW RECREATION SERVICES — What Do People Want?
 ONE-MAN STAFF — Increased Effectiveness Through Careful Planning
 OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES — Special Construction and Operation
 PARK PROBLEMS in Small Communities
 PARKS — New Ideas from Far and Near
 PLAYGROUNDS for Creative Play — Leadership, Program, Facilities
 PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN — Leadership and Activity Problems in Programs
 PROBLEMS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES — Recreation Workshop
 PUBLIC RELATIONS Workshop
 RECRUITING, SCREENING, AND SELECTING Recreation Workers — A Universal Problem
 RURAL AREA and Small Town Recreation
 SCHOOL Recreation Program
 SENIOR CITIZENS — Satisfaction Through Recreation
 SPORTS and ATHLETICS — Their Organization and Administration
 STATE GOVERNMENTS — What Basic Recreation Services Should They Provide?
 SUPERVISION — Workshop (Two Sessions)
 TEEN-AGER PROGRAMS — What Is New Under the Sun?
 VOLUNTEER RECREATION WORKERS — How Can They Give Significant Service?
 WIVES of Recreation Workers — Their Own Meeting

SIGNALS AHEAD



Members of the National Advisory Committee on Recreation Administration are studying current problems of administration that face our park and recreation authorities. Recently, George Hjelte of Los Angeles, as chairman, asked them to comment on the following question: "Is recreation acreage in communities keeping pace with population growth— having in mind that births have exceeded 3,500,000 for the eighth consecutive year; 177,000,000 by 1960 and 221,000,000 by 1975 forecast for population growth?"

Every one of the considerable number of replies representing small and medium-size communities as well as larger cities said: "No, we are *not* in our community." Several of the medium and smaller places added: "We have no planning commission and the people are building houses without thinking about areas for recreation. It is probably our fault."

I want to share with you part of the challenging reply from one committee member, namely, Charles E. Doell, su-

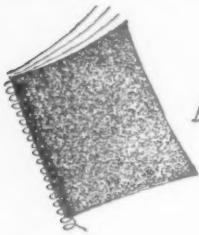
perintendent of parks in Minneapolis, Minnesota: "The question does not pose the most important aspects of recreation acreage. We ought to know whether recreation acreage is increasing in proportion to the *needs* of recreation as those needs are being developed in this postwar period. Not only is the population increasing rapidly, but the hours of leisure are increasing; the span of life is increasing, therefore including more individuals in our recreation programs; the economic status of the population is improving with consequently more money to spend on recreation as well as other things; and there is a demand for an increased standard of public recreation commensurate with increased standards of living in other facets of our life.

"Viewed from this point, it seems to me that most of us are nowhere near keeping pace. In fact, almost all of us are still striving to attain a standard of both quality and quantity of recreation facilities which were advocated as necessary years ago. In other words,

very few, if any of us, have the facilities which, for instance, the National Recreation Association advocated we should have probably twenty or twenty-five years ago. If we haven't reached that standard yet, by the next twenty-five years we are apt to be so woefully behind that we are almost out of the picture. *Our sights are entirely too low.*"

It is now thirty years since that study of open space needs was made by the National Recreation Association. It brought the conclusion that there should be ten acres of recreation and park space for each one thousand people in the community.

We need to step up our pace if we hope to keep in step with the leisure time demands of tomorrow's recreation traffic. Particularly acute is the mounting need for recreation space. National Recreation Month affords an excellent occasion, in the meantime, to lift our sights and to stress more sharply long range planning in the acquisition of land for public recreation.—C. E. REED, Director, NRA Field Department. ■



A REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

In 1931, Joseph Lee stated in an editorial, "Leisure for everybody, a condition which we are now approaching, is a new thing under the sun—the most revolutionary thing that ever happened. . . . Here is our chance. . . . We may choose the path of life or pass it by."

Announcing New Service

A Recreation Book Center is announced by the National Recreation Association, to be initiated as a new service on September first, at national headquarters, 3 West Eighth Street, New York 11, New York. This will display over seven hundred recreation books that can be ordered through the NRA, and a discount of ten per cent will be allowed all members of the Association. A catalog of these publications will be distributed to all RECREATION Magazine subscribers as a supplement to the September issue.

This project has been made possible through the cooperation of over eighty book publishers, and the planning by an NRA National Advisory Committee of Publishers composed of: Virgil Gentilin, Simon and Schuster, chairman; Harry D. Brown, McGraw-Hill; Julien McKee, Houghton Mifflin; Don Jones, Prentice-Hall; Carol Woodward, Macmillan; Josephine T. Lees, Ronald Press; James Rietmulder, Association Press; William Adams, Abingdon Press; and Rose Jay Schwartz, Special Publications, National Recreation Association.

Bulldozer Fight Wins Stay

Our continued story regarding the battle in Central Park, New York,* between local mothers and Park Commissioner Robert Moses has reached an impasse—with the former obtaining a stay of trial. A four-day cease-fire injunction stopped, temporarily, all work on preparation of the site for a restaurant parking area.

* See "Sitting Tight," page 231, May issue of RECREATION.

Nehru Park, Bombay, India.

● "We are arranging to incorporate sites for many recreation centers in our town plan to serve all communities and are also reserving large areas as parks and open spaces," writes Fakhri Al Fakhri, Lord Mayor of Amant Al Asina, Baghdad, to Thomas E. Rivers, executive secretary of the NRA International Service. "Your visit to Baghdad was of great value to us," he continues, "and I am grateful to you for much useful information. . . ."

Children and TV

Here is one problem that parents, teachers and leaders did not have to worry about in 1906! In 1956, however, it is of interest and encouraging to read, in the May issue of *California Parent-Teacher*, an announcement that NBC network has appointed Dr. Frances Horwich (Miss Frances of "Ding-Dong School") as supervisor of children's programs and chairman of the Children's Review Committee. Also serving on this committee are Mrs. Douglas Horton, former president of Wellesley College, and Dr. Robert Goldenson, psychologist and expert on family relations.

A study was made by the committee of all National Broadcasting's children's programs and the report will be used as a basis for future planning. The report commended the network for its "effort to maintain a common standard of excellence wherever children are involved," but also pointed out certain weaknesses in present programs designed for children and family viewing. A few among these were: Effect on parent-child relationships; over-excitement of a solid hour or more; bad grammar, poor pronunciation, name calling; slapstick—over-done, destructive, too frequent and in questionable taste; crudeness; camera shots tending to frighten the children; over-emphasis on money; exploitation of children; misguided enlightenment or insufficient enlightenment; group relations (in relation to race, religious, and nationality groups); stereotypes in plot and character.

The study calls for general correction, and the committee has submitted a list of recommendations, some of which already are being initiated.



Personals

● Mr. and Mrs. Bob Crawford, of Philadelphia, will be taking off for Europe early in July on a trip ostensibly for vacation purposes but also to give Bob a chance to check on recreation and park developments on the other side of the water. It will also afford an opportunity for him to talk with foreign leaders about the coming International Recreation Congress. Mr. Crawford, who is commissioner of recreation in Philadelphia, will return home the latter part of August to complete plans for the big meeting—and to act as host September 30 to October 5.



● Professor Garrett G. Eppley Honored. Kenneth Schellie (right above) of Indianapolis congratulates Professor Eppley, Indiana University recreation department head, as he is honored at a recent meeting at Bradford Woods, the university's recreation and conference center near Martinsville. At the left is Professor Theodore Deppe also of the university recreation department. Professor Eppley's former students and colleagues presented him with murals for his office, a watch, and portfolio of letters.

● Donald Sinn Selected. "The recent, rapid increase in leisure time is bringing about a human revolution in America," says the preface of a report released by the Conference on Leisure recently convened at the Statler Hotel in Boston at the 1956 Spiritual Statesmanship Conference of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Governor Lane Dwinell of New Hampshire was invited to send a personal representative by Governor Theodore Mc Keldin of Maryland. Governor Dwinell's representative at the two-day conference was Donald F. Sinn, director of the department of recreation and parks in Concord, New Hampshire.

News Items in 1907

May—National sanction has been given to the playground movement by a recent action of congress in appropriating \$75,000 for the beginning of a permanent playground system for the District of Columbia. The city already has over 1,300 small parks. This appropriation is for the requisition of sites in accordance with the Playground Plan for Washington. The drawing and adopting of this plan were the first official acts of the Playground Association of America.

May—In a city near Philadelphia, a *keeper* of a playground for the summer is wanted at once—\$10 a week.

June 20, 21, 22—The first annual meeting of the Playground Association of America will be held in Chicago, Illinois. Among outstanding addresses will be that of Dr. Luther Gulick, president of the Association, on "Play and Democracy," and Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, on "Public Recreation and Social Morality," and "Play as a Training in Citizenship," by Joseph Lee, vice-president, Massachusetts Civic League. The evening session on Friday will be a presentation of the pros and cons of the question, "Should Municipal Playgrounds be Controlled by the Board of Education," with Dwight H. Perkins, architect of the Chicago Board of Education and member of the Special Park Commission, and Professor Royal Melendy, University of Cincinnati, presenting the affirmative, and Professor Charles Zueblin, University of Chicago, Commissioner Henry B. F. Macfarland, president of Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and Dr. Henry Curtis of the Association, presenting the negative. Joseph Lee will chair the meeting.

July 10—The Seashore Tent for the members of the Kindergarten Mother's Clubs and their children opened at Coney Island (New York). The camp will be open every day, with the exception of Sunday, to enable hundreds of Brooklyn children to enjoy the simple pleasures of sand and sea without the over-stimulating and unwholesome conditions of the crowded popular resorts.

September—The opening of a new playground in Brooklyn (New York) this

summer was marked by the presentation of a beautiful flag by the McPherson-Doane Grand Army Post. No further announcement to the neighborhood was required, and for blocks parents as well as children responded. The spirit of patriotism can be fostered and should pervade a playground.

Local Briefs

● Over six hundred teen-agers turned out for the Teen Council's Spring Hop in Arlington, Virginia, on April 28, and insured the free summer dance series sponsored by the council. The Twilighters played and Dick Fanning, WFAX, emceed. The council includes the officers of all teen clubs sponsored by the recreation department.

● A spirited group of Clearwater, Florida, citizens have succeeded in landing the 1956 women's championship softball games. Early plans indicate the playing of the entire tournament September 3-8 at Jack Russell Stadium—scene of the 1955 men's title games. Auxiliary fields will be available if needed.

● A "learn-to-sail" program is being offered on Lake Merritt in Oakland, California, again this year by the recreation department. The immense carry-over value of this activity makes it extremely popular. All students are taught in twelve Penguin-class sailboats owned by the department. Instruction is done by the recreation director with volunteer help from the department's teen-age sailing club—the "Boon Dodgers," and members of the Lake Merritt Sailing Club. A three-dollar fee is required, to partially cover minor maintenance costs. During 1955 over one hundred and sixty-five students, both young people and adults, were trained in the fundamentals of sailing. The course includes: *Instruction Ashore*: Introductory discussion on the thrill and satisfaction of knowing how to sail a boat; nomenclature; rigging and unrigging at the dock; water safety; sailing terms; personal equipment check; marlinspike seamanship; theory of sailing; rules of the road; basic racing rules; care and maintenance of sailboats. *Instruction Afloat*: Orientation ride; "on the water" instruction; solo sailing.



Virginia Musselman

WHAT WAS IT LIKE, back in 1906? What had happened not too long before? This is not irrelevant to the question of recreation programs then and now, because events have a most direct bearing on the needs and interests of people. In the seeds of the past are the fruits of the future.

Pretend you were living in 1906. Only forty years before, the first Atlantic cable had been laid successfully. Thirty years before Bell had invented the telephone. That same year saw the first carbon arc light—but it would be 1910 before the electric light bulb that we know was invented.

Only twelve years before, Mr. Edison's first kinetoscope showing took place in New York—the forerunner of the moving picture. Six years before, Carrie Nation began her personal war against the saloons and "blind tigers," wielding her hatchet so effectively that eventually the entire nation went dry.

Five years before, McKinley was assassinated, and Theodore Roosevelt, the vice-president, took over the duties of office. In that year, Marconi succeeded in signaling the letter *S* across the Atlantic, and the next year succeeded in sending the first radio message.

The year 1903 was spectacular: Orville Wright made the first successful flight in a plane; the Ford Motor Company was officially organized, and the first automobile trip across the United States from San Francisco to New York was made. (It took from May 13 to August 1!)

In 1906, the birthdate of the Playground Association, San Francisco was destroyed by fire. In 1907, came a terrible financial panic (remember 1929?); in 1909, Peary reached the North Pole, and Louis Blériot made the first flight by plane across the English Channel.

In 1911, Amundsen reached the South Pole, and the first transcontinental flight across the United States was made. (It was eighty-two hours and four minutes in the air, and

The Seeds of the Past in Program Planning

made frequent landings.)

In 1914, the First World War was the most important event, of course; but in that year the first ship passed through the Panama Canal.

What has this to do with program? Read between the lines! The world was becoming smaller as far as time and transportation were concerned. Communication through telephone, telegraph, movies, and radio had begun. Oceans had been joined. The sky had been opened. Horses were beginning to get used to seeing automobiles. And this growth meant business, industries, factories, labor, slums, exploitation, poverty, vice and crime.

Across the land began to blow a great wind of social consciousness. Certain men and women looked around them, and were appalled at what they saw. They looked abroad and saw experiments going on in education and child care. They started settlement houses, health centers—and playgrounds. They worked for legislation *against* child labor, legislation for parks and playgrounds, welfare services, medical care. Their names, many of them mentioned in this issue, still ring out.

Truly, "there were giants in the land." These people left footprints that few of us could fill today. They were the pioneers in our field. They broke the paths that we now travel. They prodded the conscience of a nation. They set the foundations for the principles in education, recreation, and social work on which today's social structures stand. With almost everything against them, with almost nothing but faith, hope, love, and a fiery sense of justice, they revolutionized the life of a nation. We are forever in their debt.

When the Playground Association was a year old, it published its first magazine, *THE PLAYGROUND*, five-and-a-half by eight-and-a-half-inches in size, sixteen pages long, ten cents a copy! Those departments, libraries, and individuals lucky enough to have the complete set of this magazine should treasure it. Those in the recreation movement today should read these early issues, because in their pages are reflected the beginnings of public recreation.

MISS MUSSELMAN is head of the NRA Program Service.

In them is the story of the playground built and operated by Hull House in Chicago, in 1893. It had swings, seesaws, giant strides and sandbins. "Play was totally disorganized both on the part of children and of the supervisors, and everything from games to management had to be learned."

In 1896, University Settlement, operated by Northwestern University, opened its playground. From three to four thousand children used it. It was a large area and had many benches as well as several "retiring rooms." A police officer and a matron were in charge.

The story of Chicago is thrilling—public funds in four years amounting to ten million dollars for "park playgrounds," surrounded by high iron fences (hidden by shrubs), and including separate play areas for small children, outdoor swimming pool open two days for men, two days for women, and until 9:30 at night, *lighted*. The athletic fields had baseball diamonds, football fields, and tennis courts, and were sprayed in the winter for ice skating. The fieldhouse contained a restaurant, library, gym, a plunge pool, and clubrooms.



This was the day of the middy blouse and long skirt.

It is perhaps significant that the very first game described in this magazine did not appear until the September 1907 issue—and was a Japanese game, *Kotari*. It is also significant that almost all of those early issues had news items about playgrounds, playschools, and other recreation programs in Paris, London, and in various countries. International recreation got an early start!

Read the November 1907 issue for a delightful essay on "Prisoners' Base" by Joseph Lee. This issue also announced the publication of *Education By Plays and Games* by George Ellsworth Johnson, with an introduction by Dr. G. Stanley Hall.

It is in the December 1907 issue, however, that we get the first detailed report of a day's recreation program. It is the program of the Pittsburgh Playground Association, and is probably quite typical of the activities and leadership techniques used in those beginning days.

The playground opened at 9 A.M. Youngsters assembled in the school yard, and took part in "opening exercises" by forming into line, singing patriotic songs and saluting the flag. Those from eight to fourteen years old then marched



A play festival was a proper summer program climax.

into the building to "classes." The younger children stayed outdoors, marched, sang, played in the sandboxes and with their pull-toys, molded in clay, cut paper, made rag and paper dolls, folded, pasted, knit and braided. They also listened to stories and to songs.

Inside, the eight-to-fourteen's could choose between many classes—cooking, basketry, woodwork, drawing, color work, design, stenciling, mechanical drawing, nature study, nursing, household training, and physical training. The latter was formal—drills with wands and clubs, marching, dancing, and games.

Every Friday was "Flower Day." Women on a flower committee prepared small bouquets which were distributed to the children at the different parks, playgrounds, and schools. (Today we hear more about ice cream, lemonade, lollipops, or watermelons. The flower idea is a nice one!)

You think playground work must have been easier in "the good old days"? Take a look at the Cambridge, Massachusetts Vacation Schools. The older pupils twelve to thirteen could choose between sloyd (know what that is?)* and drawing, or basketry, cooking or sewing. The younger ones received instruction in drawing, watercolor, reading, and writing.

The playground had a shelter with baths (baths were im-

* A system of manual training (originally Swedish) using wood carving as a means of training in the use of tools.

Physical education leaders brought formal gymnastics.



portant then—many homes didn't have them!), sandboxes, and provided baseball in the summer, skating in the winter.

At first boys weren't allowed, but they hung around and were so fascinated that they were finally allowed in. There was no apparatus. The youngsters played beanbag, quoits, and circle games. They learned sewing, knitting, crocheting, picking and working sewing cards. (The boys worked on the sewing cards and knit reins!) Other activities included singing, speaking pieces, marching, and dressing up.

Comment at the time: "Another gain has been that, now the novelty has worn off, the crowds of rough boys who used to gather at the outskirts of the schoolyard have greatly diminished and fewer appeals have to be made to the police."

In March 1908, there is an article about two new games devised by E. B. DeGroot, director of the South Park Playgrounds and Gymnasiums in Chicago. Playground Ball was for outdoors; Long Ball for indoors. They clicked! They swept the city. The churches, the golf clubs, the tennis clubs, the industrial workers at noontime all played these games—so many people and teams that an association had to be formed.

The April 1910 issue jumped to thirty pages, and described Independence Day programs in Springfield, Massachusetts, St. Paul, Minnesota and Pittsfield, Massachusetts. In it, too, was an article on "Play Centers in France," and an announcement of *Games for the Playground, Home, School and Gymnasium*, by Jessie Bancroft, Assistant Director of Physical Training in New York City. It was priced at \$1.50. (A revised edition of this book is now priced at \$8.50!) Many people who do or have done active recreation leadership think that for organization and easy use no other game book has surpassed Miss Bancroft's.

The May 1910 issue of **THE PLAYGROUND** jumped to seventy-two pages. It has three articles worthy of note: for the first time an article specifically on playgrounds and juvenile delinquency, the first on exams for playleaders, and the first on recreation for the handicapped—in this case the following letter from Helen Keller:

"Our best institutions for the blind have good playgrounds. As for the blind child who lives at home, he should be encouraged to play with the seeing. If they will meet him halfway in their sports, he will gain far more than if he plays with other blind children, who are slower and more timid in their games. Besides, a blind playmate will accustom his seeing friends to take the capabilities of the sightless for granted, and then the companionship of the blind and the seeing will benefit both."

Also, the outline of the National Congress to be held in Rochester, New York, shows that recreation had come a long way in four years.

Storytelling	Equipment
Dance	Athletics for Boys
Activities for Girls	Recreation Buildings
Playground Administration	Parks as Recreation Centers
Family Recreation	Church Recreation
Uses of Public Schools	Play in Institutions
Municipal Recreation—Possibilities and Limitations	
Moving Pictures—Their Function and Regulation	
The Possibility of Relieving the Monotony of Factory Work	

If we substitute television for moving pictures, and industrial recreation for factory work, that program would

fit nicely into the core of any current conference or congress.

Incidentally, we today perhaps haven't given much thought to the terrific impact movies made upon the recreation life of America, particularly in cities. It was estimated, for example, that ninety-five per cent of the New York working girls (from fourteen years up) spent their Saturday nights in dance halls, of which there were literally hundreds. These were unsavory places, less regulated then than now, where the girl danced five minutes and "sat" for fifteen—and drinking was required while sitting! Movies practically replaced the dance halls, and the penny arcades.

Clothing is often a clue to recreation activities. On a playground in 1906, the young lady in charge was very elegant in high-necked, full-sleeved shirtwaist, and very full, long skirt, cotton stockings, and high shoes. Her hair was long, piled on top of her head, but hidden by a large, wide-brimmed hat. The young man in charge looked very elegant, also, in his tight collar, fitted jacket and trousers. The little girls dressed like the lady leader, with black or white long cotton stockings, hair hanging around their shoulders. The little boys wore big caps, suspenders, and fairly tight pants that ended just above or just below the knees, plus long, ribbed cotton stockings.

What did the children do, back in the beginning of the century? The boys couldn't join the Boy Scouts, because it wasn't organized until 1910. The girls couldn't join the Girl Scouts or Camp Fire Girls—they came later, in 1912.

Playgrounds were for children—the very young up to around twelve years old. Primarily, they were for the underprivileged.

Playground activities were much the same—circle, singing and running games, handcrafts, singing, simple dramatics, storytelling, folk dancing, baseball, football, tennis, ice skating and tobogganing in the winter. Sports programs were not so highly organized or competitive. Softball and table tennis weren't invented yet.

The *atmosphere* was different, however. Programs had more drills, marches, and formalized physical education. Folk dancing was much stronger then than now, as were pageants and festivals on a large scale. Nowhere do we hear of cooperative planning of leaders and youngsters. The playground "climate" was not permissive.

Co-recreation for teen-agers was limited to folk dancing, and to special parties or simple, occasional dances, heavily chaperoned. A teen center, as we know it, would have been unthinkable. No one had dreamed yet of a golden-age center, or of hospital recreation, plant-centered programs, and day camps. (Yet back in 1907 the Playground Association advocated hundreds of camps to be located outside the city limits, for boys and girls whose only playgrounds were the city streets!)

So—go back and read the early issues of **THE PLAYGROUND**. There it all is—the seeds of a revolution in public attitude, fertilized with endless labor, zeal, belief, and prayer, kept alive through panics and depressions by faith, cultivated with imagination and self-sacrifice. They bore strong, healthy plants, the fruits of which cover our land today. May we in recreation today plant as well! ■



The Teen-Agers "HAVE A BALL"

Nellie J. Sullivan

Are you looking for ideas to interest and entertain teenagers? Is that age group the big thorn in your recreational side? Are you willing to devote weeks of work, bottles of bicarbonate, the diplomacy of a Dulles, and the patience of a pachyderm to an evening of fun exclusively for that bewildering age group? Why not have a ball? We have been doing just that for the past eight years here in Torrington, Connecticut, and, believe me, the sight of several hundred young'uns really "having a ball" repays immeasurably the time and work spent in staging the affair. They respond to the occasion with such enthusiasm, such cooperation, and such courtesy that we have dedicated ourselves to the tenet that teen-agers are pretty wonderful people. The North, South, and East Side Community Associations and Hope Grange, representing the west side of the city, assist us with the ball every year.

Although such an affair can be staged anytime throughout the year, we call our ball a Mardi Gras, holding it the Saturday evening preceding the Lenten season. Four weeks before that date the people of Torrington start voting for teen-age kings and queens from the north, south, east, and west sections of the city to represent them at the ball. The voting period continues for two weeks; and any Torrington resident can vote for one king and one queen by just writing the names of his two selections for the royalty honors, along with the sections of the city in which they reside, on a postcard and mailing it to the city recreation department. The ballot must bear the personal signature and address of the sender. Any youngster from the freshman class to nineteen years of age is eligible for king or queen honors. In this city with a population of thirty thousand about fifteen

You will find that a well-planned affair, seasoned with a dash of something "different," will be a sure-fire success with your younger set!

Mardi Gras king and queen, chosen from sectional winners, reign over affair, receive keys to New Orleans.



Two thousand balloons, some having prize tags, are released late in evening. This keeps young folks to end.



MISS SULLIVAN is a Torrington high school teacher and a counselor, a former playground supervisor, and is now active as a volunteer recreation worker.

thousand postcard votes are received. The local paper prints a daily list of those receiving nominations—this list covers from seventy-five to one hundred candidates. At the end of the two-week voting period, we announce as kings and queens those boys and girls receiving the highest number of votes in each of the four sections of town. Under no circumstances do we divulge the number of votes received by any nominee. The two-week interval between the balloting and the ball gives the eight lucky ones time to prepare themselves and their wardrobes for the big night.

On the night of the Mardi Gras the local armory, decorated by recreation department workers, is artistically disguised. Five thrones dominate one end of the hall—one throne for the king and queen of each section and, in the center, a huge throne with two golden chairs and a backdrop of purple-and-gold metallic cloth for the king and

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscription rates for RECREATION magazine are:

1 year	\$4.00
2 years	7.25
Foreign	4.50
Library subscriptions	3.70
Club subscriptions	3.50

(Ten or more individuals subscribing at one time)

NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

8 West Eighth Street, New York 11, N. Y.

queen of the Mardi Gras. From the ceiling is suspended a mammoth net holding more than a thousand balloons.

From seven to eight o'clock, local folks may view the decorations. Then, producing their forty-cent admission tickets, the teen-agers come in, spruced and sparkling, and while away the time visiting and listening to the music provided by a local band.

Promptly at nine o'clock, with the blare of trumpets, the royal couples, in formal attire—transported, corsaged, and boutonniered by men from their particular community associations—march, one couple at a time, to their respective thrones where they are crowned and presented with gold trophies by their sectional representatives. Each king has the first dance with his queen—and then everyone gets out on the floor for general dancing.

Shortly after ten o'clock the floor is cleared and, one by one, the eight nominees come to the center of the ballroom and, by popular applause, the King and Queen of the Mardi Gras are selected. These two happy youngsters are formally crowned by the mayor and his wife. They are presented with scrolls and keys to the city of New Orleans, items which have been previously received from the mayor of that famous city. In addition, there are scrolls from the governor of Connecticut. Local merchants "ante up" with unsolicited gifts, such as a complete Easter outfit, government bond, portable radio, and so on.

This presentation period is dispatched quickly. Their royal highnesses are escorted to the main throne where congratulations, picture taking, and conversation are the program of the moment.

The remainder of the evening is devoted to dancing. At about eleven-thirty, a half-hour before the affair ends, the net of balloons is lowered from the ceiling. There is a mad dash to capture the balloons, several of which have prize tags attached. (Having the balloon shower at that late hour is a device to keep young folks at the dance to the very end.) Officials of the newspapers and radio serve as judges for the ball, and the entire program is broadcast over WTOR, the local broadcasting station.

"My, that all sounds lovely," you say, "but what about the cost?" We have found that cost is a variable depending upon two things: the enthusiasm of the recreation department for the project, and its willingness to roll up its sleeves and go to work. Publicity via newspaper and radio aroused our townsfolk to the point where contributions come in, not only from the various community associations, but also from other groups. As has been pointed out, all prizes are unsolicited. The admission fee, small as it is, helps to pay the bills. The fact that this time of year is an off-season for our employees cuts labor down to a minimum cost.

Perhaps the best way to count the cost is to decide what price tag should be placed on the efforts of any adult group—whether it be a recreation department, a PTA, or a service club—to help our youngsters through the “trying teens” by providing them with well-planned entertainment. We find the cost here in Torrington is a minimal amount because, to quote our happy teen-age crowd, “We certainly had a ball!” ■

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COOPERATIVE CAMPING

We hear a good deal about integration of special groups these days, but this is a brand new type! An imaginative solution for limited facilities and budgets. A co-operative project for social and recreation agencies. A delightful and meaningful experience for two diverse groups—the blind and the older adults—of mixed ages. Results? So satisfactory that the project will be repeated, on a larger scale, this summer.

Earle D. Whitney and George T. Walters

"This was the most wonderful week of my life!"

"I wish we'd all catch the measles or something and be quarantined so we could stay longer."

"I'll be back next year if I have to come in a wheelchair."

These remarks are typical of those made as golden-agers and blind campers concluded a six-day stay at Camp Indian Springs in Butler, Pennsylvania. The first was spoken by a blind girl who has missed out on much of the fun normal teen-agers take for granted; the second by a golden-ager, on her first vacation away from family and responsibility in years; the third by a man, partially blind and afflicted with muscular sclerosis.

How did these two seemingly incongruous groups get together? Early last year, at a meeting of our local blind association, the subject of camping for the blind was brought up. The big problem was, as usual, finances—and the limited number of blind people interested in camp life. For some time, the Butler Recreation Department had been toying with the idea of a week at camp for members of our golden-age group; but we, too, were plagued with financial difficulties. So, why not pool our resources and work out a cooperative camp?

The final result far surpassed our hopes. Forty campers had the week of their lives—twenty-four golden-agers,

sixteen blind people. We feel that neither group by itself could have been so successful—but, cooperatively, it's a combination hard to beat. The golden-agers helped the blind, and felt wonderful because they were needed; and the blind people, some for the first time in their lives, were enjoying normal pursuits of fun. Lasting friendships were formed between the elderly and the blind who found that older people can be useful and active. Most important of all, they had fun in a mixed group of varying ages. They talked, played, ate, relaxed, and worshipped together and found that, despite all handicaps, they could enjoy it. Two groups of people left for camp—one group returned.

To those of you who have taken groups camping for years, these facts may be far from remarkable. It was a *first* here in Butler; but we don't intend it to be the last of such camping ventures. This is mainly written for those cities who have not yet tried camping activities for such groups, and to encourage more of such relaxation and recreation. If we can do it, so can you!

Problems and Some Solutions

Camp Site. This should be comparatively level, with easy access to all facilities. We were able to rent a church camp, complete with dormitories, a fine kitchen, and a pool. Surprisingly, the pool provided the most popular activity at camp. Some of the golden-agers hadn't been swimming for years; some of the blind had never been in the water. Only a few of the golden-agers had brought bathing suits, but after the first day, as enthusiasm for swimming grew,

bathing suits were shared and any type sports clothes that could be improvised for such were used. A guard rope warned about depth; and a small radio on the diving board also helped in the orientation of the blind.

Rates. Since many golden-agers and blind persons have limited incomes, it is most important to arrive at a rate well within everyone's budget. By careful planning and the use of government surplus foods, we were able to break even by charging only \$15 per person for the six-day period. Every economic shortcut possible was used; for example, in our golden-age group one couple worked on the staff—the wife was an accredited practical nurse, the husband acted as chief dishwasher. They enjoyed a week of camp privileges, and we were spared the necessity of hiring extra help.

Staff. An experienced camp director is vital to the success of the whole program, preferably one who understands the problems of the blind. A good camp cook is also most important. Our meals were all served family style, with seconds if desired. In addition, staff included: two assistant cooks, three dishwashers, one lifeguard, one nurse. Our camp director and her assistant were both employees of the Butler Blind Association and so their services to the camp were considered as part of their regular duties. This helps explain how our operating costs were so low.

Program. A representative from each dormitory helped to plan the daily program, thus assuring activities of interest to all. No one was compelled to

MR. WHITNEY is director of the department of public recreation and MR. WALTERS is director of the blind association in Butler, Pennsylvania.

join any group; if he preferred to sit under a tree, he did. The day's program started at 7:30 A.M. and ended at 10:30 P.M. There was swimming, music, dancing, games, nature hikes and studies, group discussions on such topics as retirement and social security, arts and crafts, inter-faith devotions.

One of the blind campers, a young minister, was invaluable in leading morning and evening interdenomina-

tional devotionals and in general being an outstanding personality. A local photographer furnished four cameras and a dozen rolls of film, and the golden-agers took turns being "official" camp photographer. The best photograph snapped on the camp grounds was taken by a totally blind camper. What more can be said to indicate the success of this unique camping venture than that it turned out to be not only

an experiment in group living, but also a happy holiday for everyone concerned?

Without splendid community cooperation the camp could never have been a success. The local newspaper and two radio stations covered the story completely; the Butler Lion's Club provided a bus to transport the campers; interested citizens made donations; and everybody pitched in to help. ■

Nature Activities in Camping

A plea for better leadership.

Janet Nickelsburg

I HAVE HAD the opportunity to visit and work in a great many children's camps, and the more I see of the sort of programs planned for children in the field of nature study, the more I realize the need for the enlightenment of leaders as to the nature possibilities a camp site offers.

At one camp in the high mountains, where all the beauty of tall trees, all the geology of mountain structure, and all the wild life of mountain streams and virgin brush lay about, the land was being cleared, the shrubs torn away to expose bare ground so that a badminton court could be constructed. The rough, raw flat of the hilltop cried aloud in its nakedness, and an object lesson was being created in how to start destructive erosion.

At such a camp there are infinite possibilities for the explorer in all fields of nature. How much better to have cleared a pathway, and a very narrow one, for a nature trail—where each plant as it was pushed aside would reveal its own history, its own adaptations to its environment, and the multitude of small creatures which use it as their habitat!

The teaching of nature study should concern itself, to my thinking, with the larger picture, not with the analysis of its parts. We are all too prone to think that we have taught the children about nature when they are able to identify twenty trees or wild flowers or rocks. When we have succeeded in doing this, this alone is what they know. They know nothing of the relationships of one thing to another, the conditions which enable those things to live where they are, nothing of the life cycles of living things. We take our children into the outdoors and we teach them to destroy. They pick wild flowers, they kill butterflies and other insects, and they take home a more or less accurate collection to show their

parents. But, the average child has small interest afterwards in this collection.

To find a flower and to watch it develop on the stem, to see it go from bud to seed, to watch it day by day, to observe it carefully enough so as to be able to sketch it in every phase of its development, that is the only manner in which children's collections should be made. Such living experiences will never be allowed to perish as collections of dead objects inevitably do.

At another camp the children brought some frogs from the creek. We kept them for a while, but warm weather and unsuitable conditions inevitably took their toll, and before we had a chance to return them to their natural environment we found that one had died. We began to ask ourselves why? What environment did a frog really need and why had it not eaten what we gave it? We decided then, that we would like to find out what a frog really does eat, and so, since the frog was dead, we thought we might learn something from our poor little victim. We dissected it, and the contents of the stomach revealed that larvae, which we had found in such abundance adhering to rocks in the stream, made up a large part of the diet—and perhaps that was why our offerings of dead mosquitoes and beetles had gone untouched. This, then, had become a lesson in ecology.

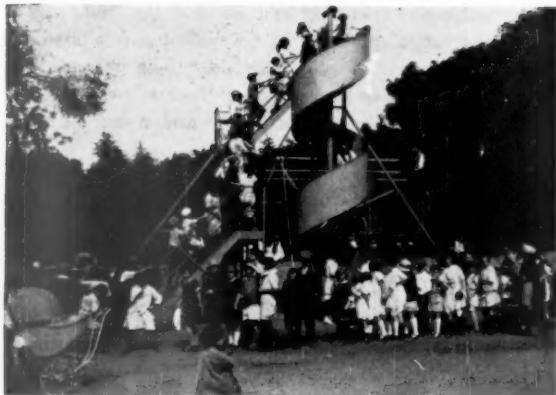
Our children were being taught to observe, not to capture small animals solely for playthings. The place for a frog to live is at the brookside, and our children should be encouraged to build an enclosure by that brookside to satisfy their sense of ownership and to allow further observation.

No man should ever really believe that he owns a living thing, for ownership too often means the power to destroy at will. The welfare of living creatures which we have as pets or domestic animals is—like that of our children—a responsibility, not alone because their loss would mean money out of pocket, but because of the inherent rights of any animal.

To understand that the countryside was not made for his enjoyment only, to perceive how each thing that makes up the countryside fits together like a jigsaw puzzle, that each is one part of a fascinating whole—that is the lesson man must learn, not only in the country, but wherever living, growing things can take hold and flourish.

To teach our children this sort of nature study is not only a challenge but an obligation of all those whose field of recreation touches on the child's relationship to the world that lies about him. ■

Mrs. NICKELSBURG has had many years of experience in nature-study and has written and directed radio and TV programs dealing with this field.



Typical example of early playground equipment, which tended to be lofty; that of today is simpler and lower.



A community center, made from an old mill, has been set up like a gymnasium. Note lethal-looking iron ring.

The Changing Picture of Recreation Areas and Facilities

George Butler

Comparison of public recreation areas and facilities in the first decade of this century with those now provided for public use reveals marked changes and developments during the past fifty years. Building materials widely used today were scarce or not available a half-century ago. Recreation areas now afford opportunities for a greater variety of activities and are laid out according to less formalized, stereotyped patterns. Recreation planning today takes into account the interests of people of all ages; whereas, in 1906, children received the primary consideration.

Even though striking advances have been made in the past half-century, a tribute should be paid to the effective, intelligent work of the early leaders and planners in the recreation movement. Their keen observation of the interests and needs of children gave them an understanding of the kinds of play areas that proved of the greatest value and had the strongest appeal, and that are equally applicable today. The playgrounds they designed fostered the basic play activities of children—among them climbing, running, imitative play, sand and water play. For many years, however, most playgrounds provided meager facilities except for highly organized games and apparatus play.

City-Wide Area Plans

The concept of a city-wide system of recreation areas has been drastically expanded during the past five decades. In the early days planners thought primarily in terms of a few types of unrelated areas—children's playgrounds, ath-

MR. BUTLER is director of the NRA Research Department and the author of many books, among them *Recreation Areas—Their Design and Equipment and Introduction to Community Recreation*.

letic centers, large landscape parks, boulevards, civic centers, and waterfront developments. Today city planning for recreation provides for a system of well distributed, diversified recreation areas, each designed to serve a variety of recreation interests and needs, many of which had little, if any, place in earlier area plans. It is also integrated with other aspects of the city plan. Standards for total recreation space as well as for specific types of recreation areas have also been widely adopted. Large properties lying outside city limits have been acquired by many cities and developed for recreation uses, such as golf, camping, picnicking, boating, and nature study—to name only a few.

The change in ideas as to recreation areas is strikingly illustrated by comparing with present-day standards a 1906 playground plan for Washington, D. C., drawn up by the Playground Association of America. The Washington plan "sought to distribute playgrounds pretty regularly throughout the District of Columbia and to provide thirty square feet of school playground for each child connected with the school, an outdoor playground of not less than two acres for each school district, and an athletic field for each of the four sections of the city." This plan, officially adopted by the school district authorities, served as a pattern in several other cities.

The tiny playground for children has long since been replaced by the more adequate neighborhood playground—a change which Joseph Lee prophetically foresaw in a speech years before the Association was founded: "We want not a boys' playground nor a children's playground, but a neighborhood playground." Instead of thirty square feet per pupil, school authorities recommend a site of five acres plus an added acre for each one hundred children enrolled in an elementary school. The community playfield of ten

to twenty acres or more with facilities for people of all ages has taken the place of the "athletic field" in the early Washington plan.

Playground Equipment

Marked changes have occurred in the types of equipment installed on the first playgrounds. Much of this apparatus was built of wood, whereas wood has only limited use in today's apparatus. In the cities, gigantic combination gymnasium frames were erected, with climbing ropes and teeter ladders, flying rings, trapeze, swings and other apparatus. Today, apparatus is simpler, lower, and installed in smaller units. Changes in the standard types, such as swings, by adding the rubber bumper or belting seat, have been made primarily in the interest of safety, or, with the use of the hobby horses, to increase their appeal. Climbing apparatus has been modified to serve more fully the interests and

more valuable and attractive to children is the tendency to select and arrange apparatus in a way that makes possible related and progressive play activities.² The current tendency to paint units or portions of apparatus in contrasting colors has resulted in greater safety and more pleasant appearance.

Surfacing

Fine gravel, cinders, and mixed cinders and clay were among playground surfaces suggested in *The Normal Course in Play* published in 1909 by the Association. These, along with crushed stone or limestone screenings, were used for surfacing many of the early areas. Dust was a serious problem and falls resulted in bad abrasions. The ideal surface for playgrounds heavily used the year-round has not yet been developed, but several non-abrasive, resilient surfaces are in use, notably those in which a product like cork,



Playhouses enclosed in wire mesh, such as these in Hartford, Connecticut, proved popular on some playgrounds around the turn of the century. The idea still has merit.

capacity of children. Separate sets of apparatus are no longer provided for boys and for girls, as in the early playgrounds.

Several unusual pieces of apparatus developed by the New York City Housing Authority have been widely installed at playgrounds under housing, school, and municipal auspices. They include pipe tunnels, play logs, walls of cinder blocks, platforms and pyramids built of concrete—some of them reminiscent of inexpensive equipment used several decades earlier. Play sculptures, including animals and free form figures cast in concrete, have gained wide approval because they tend to encourage imaginative forms of play.¹ Other more complicated types with flexible components that react to the impact of the users and that constantly challenge their skill have recently been devised and have aroused considerable interest. How the playground children in 1906 would have gazed with wonder at the dismantled automobiles, fire-trucks and airplanes or pirates' galleon that afford delight to the users of many playgrounds today!

Another recent development that promises to make areas

rubber, or asbestos has been combined with bituminous material.

Construction of paved multiple-use areas for court games, roller and ice skating, dancing, and general play—common procedure today—was virtually non-existent fifty years ago. At that time, tennis was played either on the lawn or on clay courts, whereas most public courts now are constructed of concrete or bituminous materials so as to minimize maintenance and extend the periods of play.

Many improvements have been made in recreation equipment items. Basketball goals, formerly made of wood and with supporting posts erected on the boundary of the court, are today specially designed of steel and are supported by arms that project from the posts, resulting in greater safety and improved play. Concrete has replaced wood in the construction of many items, such as sandboxes, handball walls, benches, and tables for picnicking and table tennis. Knock-down bleachers—sturdy but easily moved from one location to another—serve more diversified uses than the old

¹ See "New Concepts Behind Designs for Modern Playgrounds" by Robert B. Nichols, RECREATION, April 1955.

² See "An Improvised Play Community" by Robert E. Cook, RECREATION, April 1956; "One Body Plus One Mind Equals One Person" by Joseph Brown, RECREATION, December 1954.

type of fixed seating facilities and permit more flexible use of limited recreation spaces. All-metal nets used at tennis courts are another example of equipment designed to reduce maintenance costs.

Lights

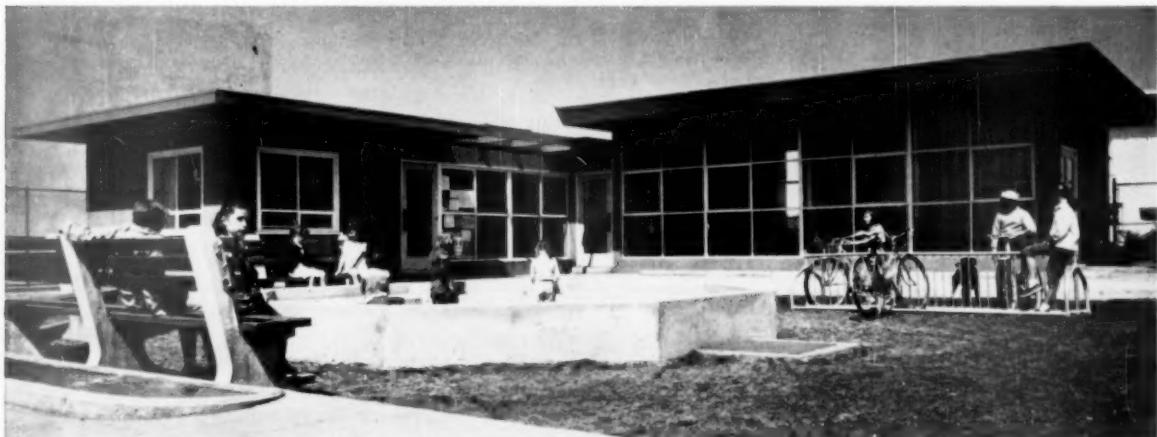
Darkness put a stop to play at most public recreation areas during the early days of the movement, but today their usefulness is greatly extended by the installation of lights permitting evening use. The first lights installed at recreation areas were arc lights, supported by wooden poles, with overhead wires. Only small units such as game courts were illuminated. Today extensive areas used for games requiring a high quantity of brightness—such as baseball or softball, as well as many other recreation facilities—are commonly equipped with lights of superior quality, mounted on steel poles served by underground circuits. Installation

are being used—steel, aluminum, brick and plexiglass, to mention only a few. Use of these materials and of pre-cast concrete units is causing radical changes in pool construction methods.

The wading pool, as in the early days, is still a most popular playground feature. Some cities, however, have installed a substitute—the spray pool. It is less expensive to build and eliminates the problem of water purification, but does not afford the same type of play experience as the wading pool.

Winter Facilities

Widespread interest in winter sports has paralleled the increase in popularity of swimming and other aquatic activities. The demand for opportunities to ski has resulted in construction of ski tows, jumps, slopes and runs designed to serve the needs of people with varying skills. The arti-



A modern recreation center in San Francisco, showing present extensive use of glass and concrete; many recently built bear little resemblance to those of early days.

of underwater lights at swimming pools is a significant development in recent years that has contributed greatly to safety and enjoyment of night swimming.

Pools

Advances made in design, construction, and operation of swimming pools have been most significant. In 1906 a pool was essentially a concrete tank equipped with inlets and outlets for filling and emptying it. Little or no provision was made for water purification—the pool was merely emptied periodically—or for the convenience of bathers. The modern well-planned swimming pool is an efficient, functional facility, designed for health, safety, comfort, and recreation. It is adapted in size and shape for a variety of desired aquatic activities, affords adequate deck space and sunning areas, and is equipped to assure effective circulation, filtration, and purification of the water in the pool. The present swimming pool boom, in large measure, is owing to the public acceptance and approval of the marked improvements in pool design and construction.

Until recently practically all outdoor pools were built of reinforced concrete, but today a variety of other materials

official ice skating rink is a facility that is receiving consideration in many cities today, but that was unheard of fifty years ago. Its development is largely owing to the mild winters in recent years that have curtailed opportunities for outdoor skating in many sections where they were formerly abundant. Artificial rinks assure satisfactory skating conditions over a period of several months each year. Some rinks have a concrete floor; others, of the roll-up type, can be removed at the end of the skating season.

Multiple Use

The principle of multiple-use, although not entirely overlooked in the planning of early recreation areas, is more widely applied today. As more people acquired recreation interests and skills, programs were extended throughout the year, and as the problem of acquiring suitable space for recreation became increasingly difficult, the need arose for using all available space to the maximum. Ball fields are therefore equipped with removable goals and bleachers so they can be used for various seasonal sports; paved multiple-use areas are marked off for a variety of games and provided with removable goals so the areas can be used for



Old, discarded planes, streetcars, fire engines and ladder trucks, such as this one in Port Huron, Michigan, are an exciting part of today's playground equipment.

skating, dancing, or other activities. Some swimming, wading, and spray pools are used as game courts outside the pool season.

Space limitations have also resulted in the modification of various games. Softball, for example, has been designed to enable a type of baseball to be played in a limited space, although subsequent modifications have greatly reduced the difference in their space requirements. Paddle tennis and one-goal basketball are other examples, as are shuffleboard, table tennis, and other games.

Recreation Buildings

Many recently constructed recreation buildings bear little resemblance to those built several decades ago, either in appearance or in nature and arrangement of their units. In the early gymnasium, for example, gymnastic apparatus was suspended from the ceiling, attached to walls, or erected on the floor; and in many buildings a running track was installed around the perimeter to form a balcony. The modern gymnasium, on the other hand, has practically no fixed equipment on its walls and its clear floor is marked off for a variety of games. Recessed bleachers afford an excellent view of activities as compared with that from seats on the elevated running track which is only a memory.

Greater emphasis is laid today upon functional design, adaptability, and multiple use. Growth in the scope and complexity of the recreation program has created a need for recreation buildings that provide facilities adapted for specific recreation activities. Increasingly, buildings contain

rooms especially designed for arts and crafts, table games, ceramics, or photography. Unlike many of the early buildings, present-day structures provide few facilities exclusively for men and for women. On the other hand, in many recreation buildings one or two rooms are allocated for the exclusive use of a particular age group, such as teen-agers or older adults. A somewhat contradictory trend, resulting from limited building space, is to design building units to serve a variety of uses. Ample storage spaces, folding partitions, and movable equipment facilitate use of a single room for such varied activities as club meetings, socials, lectures, dances, card parties, and hobby shows.

Development of new materials offers possibilities in the construction and furnishing of recreation buildings that were not available a few decades ago. Formica, aluminum and plastics, for example, are used widely in making furniture, equipment, and furnishings that are durable, attractive, and easy to handle. Glass brick and translucent, glare-proof, or reinforced glass of various types are used increasingly for both the inside and outside of the building. In many new buildings, rooms used for recreation are flooded with light from large expanses of glass wall.

Cooperative Planning

The movement to open school buildings for use by community groups had its start early in the century, although widespread acceptance has come about only in recent years. Little emphasis was placed, however, upon the design of schools for community use or for cooperative planning by school and recreation authorities of facilities intended for both school and community use. One of the most significant and promising developments in the past decade has been the growing recognition that such cooperative planning is essential and the increasing tendency of school and recreation agencies to enter into agreements to make such planning effective. As a result, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities are being jointly acquired, designed, developed, and operated by school and recreation authorities. Such action has resulted in better planned areas and facilities, more effective programs, and a marked saving for the taxpayer.

Rapidly expanding leisure, growing interest in recreation, marked advance in the creation of new materials, and man's ingenuity in devising new forms of recreation—all point to the probability of unprecedented development of recreation areas and facilities in the years ahead. ■

Record Boom for SWIMMING POOLS

A record-smashing total of \$325,000,000 is expected to be spent in new pool construction and equipment in 1956. *Swimming Pool Age* reports in its annual national market study.

These figures compare with approximately 20,000 new pools, costing \$220,000,000 built in 1955—which was by far the previous most productive year for the industry. As an indication of

the current "fabulous" activity, the survey discloses that only 8,000 pools had been built in this country by the end of the second World War.

"New construction in 1956 alone will more than triple the total number of pools existing in the United States up through the end of 1945," according to Robert M. Hoffman, publisher of *Swimming Pool Age*. Data gathered in

the study refer to permanent installations of fifteen by thirty feet, or larger.

A breakdown of the 56,000 existing pools found that residential pools comprise 35,000 of the total. There are roughly 8,800 in Y's, schools, hotels and motels; 7,400 municipally owned; 3,600 private club pools and 1,200 commercial pools. In contrast, there were 2,500 residential pools in 1948 and a proportionate number in the other categories. ■

The Playground Charles Mulford Robinson



"I leave to the children the blossoms of the woods. . . ."

WHY SHOULD there be landscape gardening in children's playgrounds? Do you remember the legacies contained in a document published, said to be the will of a handicapped person of Cook County, Illinois? These were his bequests to children: "I leave to children, all and every, the flowers of the field, and the blossoms of the woods, and the right to play among them freely, according to the customs of children, warning them at the same time against thistles and thorns—and I leave the children the long, long days to be merry in, in a thousand ways. I devise to boys, jointly, all the useful idle fields and commons where ball may be played; all pleasant waters where one may swim; all snow-clad hills where one may coast, and all streams and ponds where one may fish, or where, when grim winter comes, one may skate; to have and to hold the same for the period of their boyhood."

Now, as soon as a city becomes of such size that there are a great many children, multitudes of boys and of girls, there are not left any flowers and fields and woods. The "idle fields and commons," the pleasant waters where one may freely swim, snow-clad hills where one may coast, or skate, are so far away as to be inaccessible, quite out of the children's world as far as practical usefulness goes. It is to supply their want that playgrounds are created. That is why the grounds are equipped with ballfields, swimming pools,

toboggan slides, and skating ponds. We are only trying to give to childhood, city-born as well as country, its rightful heritage.

It has been found by experiment that it is easier, cheaper, and more satisfactory to the children themselves to do this by bringing into the city little oases of country, that shall be the children's own and that they can use every day, than once in a long while to take them out to the real country. But in bringing these playground oases of country into town, it is strange how often we have forgotten "the flowers of the fields and the blossoms of the woods"—the very first articles which the person itemized as a legacy "to children, all and every." We have provided toys and games and brought in the opportunities for sport of various sort, but we have forgotten the flowers. Yet never was child, boy or girl, taken for the first time into the country and left alone who did not go at once for the flowers. Before ball is tossed or race is run, starved little hands clutch for buttercups and daisies.

It is a curious thing that we makers of playgrounds have so commonly overlooked the flowers; have fancied that any old vacant lot, however bare, would perform its full playground function of giving chance for the play of muscles. For when we build parks, which are only bigger playgrounds for bigger people—the making accessible for grown folk of some larger bits of country—the flowers and the beauty of landscape are the first things thought of. That is, when we plan for ourselves, we recognize that beauty is one of the things most craved in the parks—to be thought of ahead of golf links, or boating, or zoos. But when we are planning for the children, to whom nature's book never has been opened, we tell them to run and jump, to learn basketry and the principles of civic government; but to look

A talk delivered at one of the first National Recreation Congresses and printed in the Congress Proceedings of 1908. CHARLES MULFORD ROBINSON died in December 1917. He was described by Survey Magazine, as "one of the three most famous city planners in the world," and helped in planning Denver, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Oakland, Fort Wayne, and Colorado Springs.

for nothing beautiful—even though, as consequence, the seals never fall from their eyes and the loveliness of plant life never be revealed.

It is a great responsibility to take. The propriety of bringing into the playgrounds that beauty which landscape gardening commands, even in the most restricted area and under the most unfavorable conditions, seems to me overwhelmingly convincing. But this other article may also be advanced. In the parks, beauty and landscape find a sufficient justification in the pleasure they give. Beauty rests, soothes, and pleases us; but generally it makes us wiser. In the playgrounds, where to its aesthetic attraction there is added to the merit of novelty, it is also uniformly educational.

The very constituents of a gardening composition—tree and grass and bush and flower—are delightful to a child, even apart from the picture they may make. There is the appeal of life to life. And think what, on the purely physical side, natural shade and the freshness of living green may mean, on a hot day, to the children of the scorching tenements. In Chicago, where the playgrounds are the best in the world, there is told a story of a little barefoot girl who rang the bell at one of the fine houses and asked, "Please, sir, may I put my feet on your grass?" Playgrounds are too often developed on the theory that she would have asked to swing on the area gate or to slide down the railing of the

steps, and never have noticed that there was grass. Yet the wish she expressed was normal; and it seems to me that the voice of that little child in the great twentieth century city echoed humbly a thought of the Prophet Isaiah, when, dreaming of a city beautiful, thousands of years ago, he cried, "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem,"—and then in his fine ecstasy, "Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord hath comforteth his people, He hath redeemed Jerusalem." It is for us, as this little child unconsciously asked, to comfort the children and redeem the playground by giving to it its beautiful garment.

There is, then, no consistency in the phrase I find in one playground leaflet, "The maximum of utility and the minimum of ornament." Did you ever know a child who did not love ornament and beautiful things? Shall we who pretend to feed—and do feed the little bodies that are hungry for a chance to play—give only stones to the starving spirit, senselessly bragging of a "maximum of utility" in such provision? We must redeem in order to comfort.

How to do this in a practical way, with the handicaps imposed by the playground, is the second question.

It is the privilege of community-minded men and women everywhere to work to restore and preserve for all the people of America their right to play and happiness. ■

RECREATION LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>For Further Information</i>
July 1-August 31	Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Liberty, Maine	Mr. Francis S. Merritt, Director, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Liberty, Maine
July 8-22	Rocky Mountain Square Dance Camp, Lookout Mountain, Golden, Colorado	Mr. Paul J. Kermiet, Director, Route 3, Golden, Colorado
July 29-August 12		
July 9-August 24	New Brunswick School of Arts and Crafts, Fundy National Park, Alma, New Brunswick	Mr. Ivan H. Crowell, Director, New Brunswick School of Arts and Crafts, Alma, New Brunswick, Canada
July 22-28	Danebod Recreation Institute, Tyler, Minnesota	Mr. Enok Mortensen, Tyler, Minnesota
August 4-11	American Baptist Recreation Leaders Laboratory, Green Lake, Wisconsin	Rev. Francis F. Fisher, Director, Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, 75 West 45th Street, New York, 36, New York
August 5-11	Wisconsin Recreation Leaders Lab, Kamp Kenwood, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin	Mr. Bruce Cartter, 314 Agriculture Hall, College of Agriculture, Madison 6, Wisconsin
August 5-26	Pinewoods Dance Camp, Long Pond, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts	Country Dance Society of America, 31 Union Square West, New York 3, New York
August 6-24	Outdoor Education Workshop, W. K. Kellogg Gull Lake Biological Station, Hickory Corners, Michigan	Mr. Julian W. Smith, College of Education, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
August 13-18	Rocky Mountain Rhythm Workshop, Lookout Mountain, Golden, Colorado	Mr. Paul J. Kermiet, Director, Route 3, Golden, Colorado
August 31-September 3	New England Recreation Leaders Lab, Camp Pinnacle, Lyme, New Hampshire	Mrs. Ardis Stevens, Registrar, Chester, Vermont
September 6-18	Eastern Cooperative Recreation School, Hudson Guild Farm, Netcong, New Jersey	Mrs. Beatrice Carpey, Business Manager, 122 East Herman Street, Philadelphia 44, Pennsylvania
September 22-29	Black Hills Recreation Leaders Lab, Box Elder Camp, Nemo, South Dakota	Miss Marie W. Curry, Extension Service, South Dakota State College, Brookings, South Dakota

All those who wish to have their workshops, institutes, and conferences included should send the information to NRA Personnel Service by the date indicated: October, November and December programs will be listed in *September*—information should reach us by July 15. January, February and March will be listed in *December*—deadline for information is October 15. April, May and June will be listed in *March*—deadline for information is January 15. July, August and September will be listed in *June*—deadline for information is April 15.

MARKET NEWS

If you are interested in any of these products, write directly to the manufacturer at the address given. PLEASE mention that you read about it on RECREATION magazine's Market News page.

◆ **Audio Hailer**, a new, five-and-one-half-pound portable electronic megaphone, amplifies speech one thousand times. Designed for one-hand operation, it has an effective range up to a half-mile. The self-contained vacuum-tube amplifier operates on standard dry batteries. Audio Hailer is useful for swimming pool operation, lifeguards at beaches, camps, general park and playground supervision—wherever it is necessary to speak to scattered individuals or groups, instantly and clearly. Audio Equipment Company, Inc., 805 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck, New York.



◆ **Centri-Mite**, a space-saving filter for swimming pools, has the advantage of accessibility and general simplicity of cleaning the filter element. Centri-Mite Diatomaceous Earth Filter No. 2304, with one filter, occupies only two square feet of floor space at its base, stands four and one-half feet high, and has filtering capacity for a pool twenty by forty feet. Filters No. 2308 and No. 2312, incorporating two and three filter elements respectively, proportionately increase filtration capacity. Swimquip, Inc., 3301 Gilman Road, E. Monte, California.

◆ A portable baseball and softball backstop, with unusual ball-stopping qualities because of its shape, is a new product of the Jamison Manufacturing Company. The backstop provides a large (eight by eight feet) screen of wire mesh, with sturdy galvanized steel pipe frames and tie bar which are removable for compact seasonal storage. Five-inch rubber-tired casters facilitate easy moving. Jamison Manufacturing Company, 8300 South Mettler Street, Los Angeles 3, California.



◆ **Pyrocon**, a modeling art material, is a modern plastic of brilliant colors, pliability, and amazingly simple baking method. Just as with old-fashioned clay, Pyrocon is worked either with hands or with implements. It is clean, safe, and easy to handle. Unaffected by normal room temperatures, it can be stored and re-used to form a variety of objects. When baked for fifteen minutes in an ordinary kitchen oven,

the objects become washable plastic that is practically unbreakable. Transogram Company, Inc., 200 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, New York.

◆ **Link-Kit**, lightweight plastic construction toy, is a fine traveling companion for youngsters, a "quiet hour" toy, a party game. A set consists of fifty colorful, pliable plastic pieces, which can be linked together to form an almost endless variety of three-dimensional figures, packed in a clear plastic tote pail—and it's very inexpensive. (The older groups, too, could have fun with this set.) Dewl Plasti-Toy Corporation, 200 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, New York.



◆ **Rub-R-Art**, a new design medium, features rubber bands. Imaginative pictures and designs may be created by stretching, twisting, or looping the colored rubber bands over the pegs of a ten-inch white pegboard. Rub-R-Art contains nothing to smear, stain, spill, or stick to fingers or clothing. The pegboard may be cleaned with soap and water. Kleicar Corporation, P. O. Box 147, Dept. 177, Chelsea, Michigan.

◆ Economy semi-finished folding tables are now available from The Monroe Company. These tables are similar to the Monroe Fold-Lite Tables, but are less expensive because of the unfinished surfaces. The steel legs are completely finished; the top and frame are not and therefore require varnishing or other finishing for general and permanent use. If you need tables—and budget and space are problems—here's a product worth checking. The Monroe Company, Colfax, Iowa.

◆ **Space Spider** is a unique weaving device—a toy, a craft, an art or interior decoration medium, or a convalescent pastime. This set for three-dimensional weaving contains a half-box-shape frame consisting of three easily assembled, perforated, square panels, colored fluorescent elastic thread, bobbins, clips, blunt needle, instruction booklet and special indexes stamped on the back of each panel to make the directions easy to follow. Walker Products, 1530 Campus Drive, Berkeley 8, California.





An early play leaders' class, in New York City, being trained in games despite the awkward length of skirts.

In the Beginning. The National Recreation Association from its beginning has been a leadership organization. Among its many contributions to the individual worker and the profession two stand out which are unique and characterize the Association. They are (1) leadership and (2) organization.

These two elements were lacking until the Association came into existence a half-century ago. Allied fields had evidenced neither concern for nor conception of the place and the role that well-trained, qualified professional leadership was to play as the new field began unfolding and the new career of recreation leadership was born. In fact, it was not until many years later that these allied fields even accepted the concept of well-trained professionally prepared leadership for recreation and even yet, in many circles, the concept is a narrow one.

Growth of Training

One of the first concerns of the National Recreation Association was in the field of training and professional education. Within a year after its organization, at its first Congress in 1907, the Association appointed a committee to work on a course in play. After careful investigation of the work being done throughout the country and to meet the demand for playground directors, three courses were organized: a Course for Grade Teachers, to train normal school students and grade teachers to take charge of play periods; an Institute Course in Play, prepared for those entering playground service for only a short period and for those employed without previous training; and a Normal Course in Play for Professional Directors.

In 1909, *The Normal Course in Play* was published by a committee of twenty-three members, of which Dr. Clark W. Hetherington was chairman and Dr. Henry S. Curtis, secretary. The work of the committee was carried on under the auspices of the Playground Association of America.

MR. SUTHERLAND is director of the NRA Recreation Personnel Service.

The Development and

The last revision of this publication was made in 1925 and the *Introduction to Community Recreation* is the modern version of it. These two publications have been widely used as texts in the many schools, colleges and universities training recreation workers.

Field Services to Colleges. As chairman of the Association's first training committee, Dr. Hetherington was well informed regarding the problem. It was fortunate that a man with his qualifications was available in 1910 and 1911 to work for the Association in visiting a large number of normal schools and colleges to advise with faculty members about courses in play. At one time his schedule was made out almost a year in advance. In later years Eugene T. Lies of the Association's staff gave similar service. During and since World War II, the Association has increased this service to the schools through personal visits by members of the personnel and field staffs, through special publications, committee work, and special meetings.

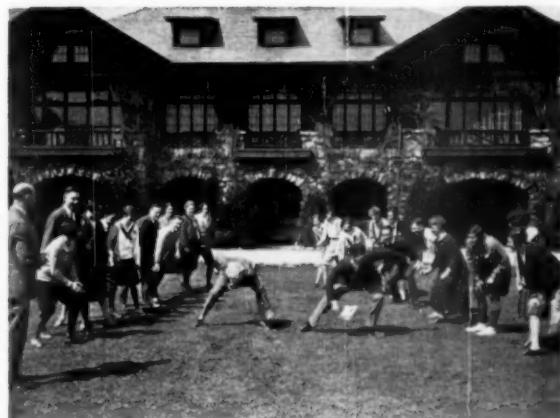
In 1911 the Chicago Training School for Playground Workers was opened and after a couple of years became a part of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy. Later it was associated with Hull House and the department of sociology of Northwestern University before fading away into the history of training. A few years later another training project of short duration was established by the People's Institute of New York in 1916. A school for community workers, it consisted of a one-year course for professional work in community centers, social settlements, and child welfare centers.

Training Institutes. In order to make recreation service more effective in World War I, local intensive "training institutes" were conducted by the Association, and in 1918 the Local Social Recreation and Games Training Institutes were established. Later, specialists in music, drama, nature, and crafts were added to the staff, as the recreation movement expanded and demand for training increased. At one time four full-time workers were kept busy conducting training for workers among rural people.

Community Recreation Schools. The first one was held in

Growth of a Profession

Willard C. Sutherland



Training institutes were established by the Association in 1918; some were given at Bear Mountain, N. Y.

March 1920. These were continued into 1926 and an average of thirty-five students attended each of the twenty-six schools. They were a cooperative undertaking in an effort to build up the profession. The essentials were covered in these six-week training periods and individual workers were prepared further for their assignments.

National Recreation School. Because of the favorable response to these various efforts to prepare leaders for recreation service, many felt, after twenty years, that the Association's experience in this specialized field, with its accumulation of material on all phases of recreation and personal contact with hundreds of local communities, should be made available for those interested in advanced training. Consequently, the National Recreation School for Professional Graduate Training was established in 1926 and, as in the community recreation schools, the enrollment was limited to approximately thirty-five students. After nine years of operation, this school closed in 1935 when the depression was making it increasingly difficult for the graduates to find the kind of administrative and supervisory positions for which they were being prepared.

Apprentice Training. As the national professional graduate school was closing, plans were under way for the training of a more limited number of workers for top administrative positions. Apprentice fellowships were made available in 1935 and continued until interrupted by World War II. The candidates received a fellowship stipend of \$100 to \$125 a month from the Association and were assigned to well-organized recreation departments for a year of rotated work and study.

Training in Emergencies. A lot of things happened in 1935. The National Recreation School closed, the apprentice training program was established, and a new type of training institute was launched. The "new look" in institutes was prompted by the need for more intensive training in the field, with the workers right on the job. Hundreds of new workers, without much previous training or experience, were serving on recreation projects made possible by the federal government's emergency relief program. These and

experienced workers alike crowded into the four-week training institutes which were sponsored by local agencies and conducted by the Association. Literally, training had been mounted on wheels and rolled out onto the firing line. These major institutes embraced courses in music, drama, nature, crafts, social recreation and games, organization and administration, and were staffed by the Association's most experienced specialists. From Labor Day 1935 to late June 1936, a total of 3,823 students attended the sixteen institutes held in the large cities in the East and Middle West.

The picture of in-service training in America, which is so important to the personal and professional growth of leadership, would not be complete without mention of the in-service training programs of hundreds of local and state, public and private voluntary agencies, the institutes developed in recent years by the American Institute of Park Executives and by the special interest groups in industrial, hospital, institutional recreation and outdoor education and camping. These and many others add up to an enormous total effort to improve recreation leadership.

In addition to the Association's specialists for training purposes, its current National Advisory Committee on In-Service Training has developed up-to-date manuals for use in training park personnel, playground leaders, and community center personnel. A special Institute for Recreation Administrators will be introduced at the 1956 International Recreation Congress by the Association's National Advisory Committee on Recruitment, Training and Placement of Recreation Personnel. Another major project of the latter committee is a nation-wide internship program, set up in cooperation with recreation departments, colleges and universities, and professional students.

The total attendance for the National Recreation Association training programs to date is about one-third of a million. The Association's contribution to the professional preparation of individual workers through the years has been a maturing and stabilizing force in the building of the recreation profession.

College Training. The first studies of recreation courses in

colleges and universities were carried on by the early pioneers of the Association in the years of 1907 through 1911 by personal visitation to schools and through correspondence. In 1925 the Association conducted a college recreation leadership study and, although the seeds of the Hetherington Committee had taken root with some two hundred institutions reporting recreation courses, no major curriculum was identified. The Russell Sage Foundation in 1927 published a list of recreation training courses which included one hundred and fifty institutions, but none had a recreation major.

Further studies were made by the Association and reports were published in 1930, 1940, 1948 and 1954. In 1940 only two schools that are at all well known today for a major recreation curriculum reported major programs. However, the demand for help from the schools increased and the Association, after consultation with educators and professional recreation workers, published *A Suggested Four Year College Curriculum* as a guide to colleges developing major recreation curriculums.

In cooperation with the Southern Regional Education Board, an agency of the Southern Governors' Conference, made up of the governors and leading educators of fourteen southern states, the Association made a very intensive study of the recreation leadership and training needs in the South. The detailed report, *Recreation As a Profession in the Southern Region*,¹ includes a large section on professional education.

The current situation in the field of training is strikingly different from that prior to World War II. Today, professional education for recreation leadership is reported in the form of major curriculums in about sixty-five schools located in twenty-seven states and the Territory of Hawaii. Over half of these schools offer graduate degrees; thirty-four have programs leading to a master's degree, and seven have doctoral programs. Not only the quantity but also the quality and character of training have changed. Graduate programs are more numerous, opportunities are more evenly distributed geographically, and specialized areas of recreation education have developed.

A broader approach is called for and the Association has enlarged its services to meet the demands of the changing, advancing professional education trend. NRA field representatives serve and work with the schools. Examples of this new departure may be seen in the co-sponsorship of workshops and institutes with colleges and universities for the training of specialists and executive leadership. The NRA headquarters staff has been increased and more schools are receiving personal visits. Students are being interviewed and counseled in preparation for entering the profession in larger numbers. Schools are being kept up-to-date on types of vacancies and the demand for personnel—which helps to serve as a guide to curriculum adjustment and development. Current information on professional education is being made available to them.

The Association's National Advisory Committee on Re-

¹ Available in book form, National Recreation Association. \$3.75.



Last graduating class of the NRA School, 1935. The school was established in 1926 for professional training.

cruitment, Training and Placement is another valuable instrument in the field of training. This committee is carrying major responsibility for bringing the consumers of personnel, the agencies, the professional recreation workers, and the college educators together. As a result, professional education is becoming more realistic and is more effectively meeting the demands of the field. The Association's two national committees on graduate and undergraduate education, made up of recreation leaders and college educators, are conducting research, planning meetings, developing materials, and in other ways helping to improve professional preparation for those seeking careers in recreation.

These educational committees have helped with the development of materials and in the conduct of studies which have resulted in the publishing of their reports² and of lists of colleges and universities reporting major recreation curriculums.

The three committees representing in-service training, graduate and undergraduate education are made up of professional workers and, with the Association, have undertaken a long-range program dealing with projects involving the development of materials on in-service training, undergraduate education, and graduate education.

Growth of Service, Coordinating and Professional Organizations

The recreation profession cuts across and is a part of many other movements, professions and services; yet it maintains its own identity and, although one of the youngest members of the professional family, it is fast taking its place alongside the older ones.

Space does not permit an interpretation or definition of the various services, coordinating and professional organizations that have come into being to serve the recreation interests. The National Recreation Association being a service organization governed by a citizens' board of directors rather than a professional association, serves in a consultation capacity to the Federation of National Professional Organizations for Recreation.

² List of these materials available free from the National Recreation Association.



Modern social recreation training session led by Anne Livingston. These are conducted in local communities.

The NRA's National Advisory Council is also an organization to help coordinate and guide the work program of its National Advisory Committees. These include committees on: Program; Research; Administration; Recruitment, Training and Placement of Recreation Personnel; Defense; Federal Recreation; International Recreation; State Recreation.

Growth of Leadership

In the foreword of the first issue of *THE PLAYGROUND*, written by Henry S. Curtis, one of the four purposes of the Playground Association of America was stated as follows: "To register and keep account of trained playground workers and facilitate the filling of vacancies." This was in 1907, and in the same year, Seth T. Stewart, chairman of the executive committee, sent a letter to college presidents asking their cooperation, and stating: "This Association proposes to be a medium of exchange between the different municipalities and organizations carrying on playground work and the colleges in placing their young men as leaders of play wherever they may be needed."

The above indicates how clearly the Association's course was charted in the early days of its existence. The registration of professional leaders and the maintenance of their credentials is one of the major functions of the Association's Recreation Personnel Service.

Fifty years ago, practically no professional recreation workers were identified as such. In 1917, there were 3,000 reported; this number increased to 25,500 by 1932, and to 50,000 in 1948. However, these were mostly part-time and seasonal leaders and only those serving in local public park and recreation agencies.

Although somewhat embarrassing to admit, no one knows the present status of professional recreation leadership. No national study or analysis has ever been made. There are various estimates of the total number of full-time, year-round professional leaders. In the public field—the tax-supported full-time positions in municipal, county, state, and federal recreation agencies and in government hospitals and institutions—the estimates generally range from 10,000 to 15,000. If private voluntary agencies are included the

range may go as high as 35,000 to 40,000. In the latter field many do not list themselves as recreation workers but prefer to be identified as social workers and group workers in the welfare field. Only in the South—where the two-year study of recreation leadership and training needs analyzed, for the first time, not only the number but also the type of recreation leaders employed full-time in public and private agencies and in the various segments of the recreation profession—is the real status known. The study revealed a phenomenal growth.

Cooperative Activities with Other Groups

Thirty-two years after the National Recreation Association was founded, recreation workers decided that there should be a professional organization and, in 1933, the American Recreation Society was formed at the National Recreation Congress in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Members of these two groups have served together on training committees through the years. Also, many training projects have been sponsored jointly by the Association and state and other affiliated society groups.

Members of the Association's staff have also joined with other professional recreation workers and organizations in conducting training workshops and training conferences.

The Growth of Professionalization

The status of the recreation profession may be found in large measure in matters pertaining to: the conditions under which leaders must serve; the salary schedules that prevail; the stability of employment and the acceptance of recreation and its leaders by the public.

We are passing through one stage of professional development. Perhaps it is the awkward stage of adolescence, but, nevertheless, it is a part of the never-ending process of growth and refinement. The recreation profession is evolutionary in character and will continue to develop to the end of time—not so much in a fixed pattern, but rather in accordance with changing demands of a dynamic society.

It will be aided most by the rank and file of the profession who keep a steady shoulder to the wheel, by those who have set standards for themselves higher than anyone else would dare set for them, by those striving for excellence in their work and concerned with their personal development, by those whose personal and professional conduct on and off the job are governed by moral values and principles.

Movements are under way by various groups and in different parts of the country, studying and trying out systems for the identification of professional personnel. They include state certification, voluntary registration, civil service, and others. Regardless of what legalized and compulsory standards for the profession ultimately emerge, it will continue to be judged by the conditions that exist at the point of individual performance and by the true qualities that characterize any professional at his best.

We have a growing membership of those who are professionally prepared and possess the spirit of a great service. We have a profession—and a mighty good one—with a potential not yet fully conceived even by those most deeply involved in it. ■



On the Campus

Alfred B. Jensen

Down The Big Muddy

Southern Illinois University students Robert Gallo and James G. Smith slid a seventeen-foot aluminum canoe out of the water at the junction of the Big Muddy and the Mississippi Rivers on March 24, completing a four-day, 120-mile water trip. They had just finished surveying the route down the Big Muddy for use in the university's camping program this summer.



Into the water go James G. Smith (left) and Robert Gallo on their canoe expedition which laid groundwork for similar trips in SIU's summer camping program.

Starting at a point near Sesser, Illinois, the pair ran rapids and portaged around log jams and brush piles during their forty-hour water journey. The winding trip took them through parts of the Shawnee National Forest and ended about twenty-five miles north of Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Professionalism Through Student Recreation Associations

"The student recreation association is a real stepping stone in the development of professionalism where the students seek to fulfill their own needs and those of others to better meet the rising demands upon leadership for leisure. Students do play a major role in this aspect of recreation. Concern and enthusiasm must grow in this area if recreation is to achieve the eventual professional status which it deserves among other occupations."

"The Student Recreation Association at the University of Minnesota has a

MR. JENSEN is a member of the NRA Recreation Personnel Service staff.

dergraduate study or graduate professional training, depending on the needs of the profession and of the department. This must be taken in an accredited school within the United States. The appointee agrees to work for one year following training in the Illinois state mental hospitals or schools for the mentally retarded.

The Illinois Department of Public Welfare pays all tuition and academic fees, plus a stipend of between \$175 and \$235 for each month of training. Certain travel expenses also are reimbursed. The stipends are not taxable, the applicant is under civil service on a merit basis, and the department arranges for summer work on request.

Complete information about the program may be obtained from the Assistant Deputy Director, Employment-Education Program, Illinois Department of Public Welfare, State Office Building, Springfield, Illinois.

Recreation Association Joins NRA

The student recreation association of State Teachers College, Cortland, New York, joined the National Recreation Association in March, 1956 as a Student Affiliate Member. William G. Keating, Jr., is president; Barbara A. Thompson, vice-president; Bette L. Wisoker, secretary; and Sigrid A. Sampson, treasurer.

Dr. Harry Edgren Honored

Dr. Harry Edgren was honored at 1956 Homecoming by faculty, alumni, and students of George Williams College, Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Edgren left for a new assignment as professor of recreation at Purdue University this spring after thirty-one years at George Williams.

Students Aid Institute

For the tenth year, Indiana University graduate students in recreation aided in the management and operation of the university-sponsored Great Lakes Park Training Institute, held at Pokagon State Park early this year. Over one hundred graduate students majoring in recreation now have attended these institute sessions while helping put them on.

Penn State Model Shown

A scale-model neighborhood school recreation center is pictured on the cover of the February 1956 issue of the Pennsylvania State University College of Physical Education and Athletics Alumni News Letter. The model was constructed by graduate students in recreation. Also shown and featured in the issue is the new ten-point rifle range in the recreation hall. ■

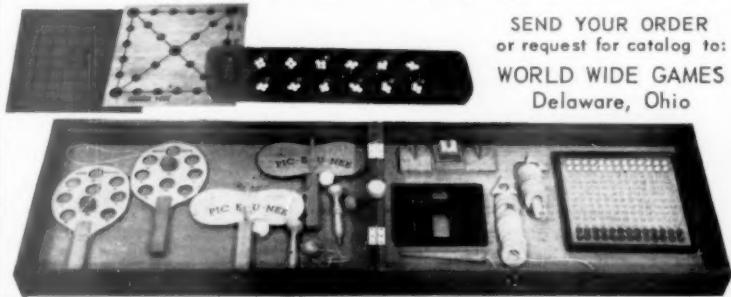
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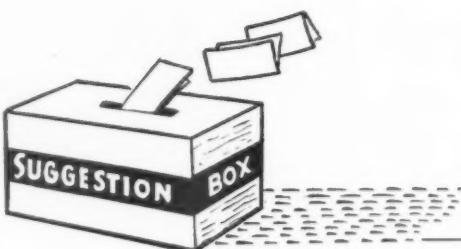
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Try Scratch Board

Scratchboard is the name given to a type of paper and also to an art medium. It was first used by a lithographer named Ross in the early 1800's and is still used extensively in commercial art. The finished article can resemble a pen-and-ink drawing in reverse and can nearly resemble a genuine woodcut. The process consists in coating a heavy paper or board with ink and scratching in a design.

Scratchboard can be fairly expensive, so we have been experimenting to bring it to a simple and inexpensive technique suitable for all ages. You will need a smooth heavy paper or bristol board (two-ply is good to start with) or smooth mounting board.* India ink and crayons are needed, and also a scratching tool. You can buy scratchboard tools, of course, but a hat pin, a small nail, a sharpened knitting needle, an X-acto knife, or old manicure scissors can successfully be used to scratch with. You can achieve a design in black and white, black and one color, or black and several colors.

Let's start with the simplest first and try black and one color on a small area (about four by six inches). I used a pale yellow, covered the paper with a layer of yellow crayon, going over several times lightly rather than once heavily. This makes the crayon layer smoother. Over this I painted an even coat of black India ink. The ink can be made to adhere by putting a small amount of it in another container and adding a drop of mucilage. A word of warning, however: only a drop of mucilage, because too much makes the ink crack as you scratch. Be sure to wash your brush out immediately after applying the ink.

To obtain a variety of colors, cover

your board or paper with an assortment of colors in a pattern, then cover with the India ink as before. Let it dry, then begin scratching. Your scratched design should have some relation to the color pattern underneath, but you'll be surprised and fascinated at the colors and patterns that are revealed as you scratch.

So much for material and techniques. Now what about the design? Try not to separate arts and crafts into its own little niche, but rather combine and coordinate it with all the rest of your program. As soon as spring comes, everyone will want to get out of doors and go for a hike or have some cookouts. When you're out, you can't help seeing things that make good design—leaves, ferns, shells, or even the vegetables that you bring for your stew. Make simple sketches on your hike, and at the next meeting make the design for your scratchboard. Don't be afraid to try a variety of ideas, techniques, and tools. You'll probably come up with something we never thought about. The finished designs can be used in many ways—a design of ferns or leaves may be used as a portfolio cover for the nature sketches or prints that you make later, and a design of vegetables may be used as a cover for a collection of recipes. Happy scratching!—Corinne M. Murphy. Reprinted from The Girl Scout Leader, January 1956.

Checkerboard for Handicapped

A hospital patient at the California State Veterans Home and Hospital designed and constructed a novel checkerboard which makes it possible for patients to play the game with the board on the floor.

The oversize board is an oilcloth sheet five and a half feet square with sixty-four six-inch squares painted on it in alternate purple and yellow. A

* These cost about twenty cents for a large sheet.

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frame contains the entire equipment which consists of a mailing tube on which the board can be rolled up by means of a crank under the shelf provided for the checkers. It weighs only twenty-one pounds completely equipped, making the entire game portable for use throughout the hospital wards.

The checkers are circular wooden discs measuring about four inches in diameter. Each one is equipped with a light wire loop so that it may be picked up on a small hook attached to a four-foot rod, and thus moved from square to square as the game progresses. These checkers each have a hole in the center so that they may be stacked to make a "king," and the loop on the bottom checker rises through the upper disc for lifting and moving. However, to simplify matters, special "king" discs have been made, which may be used singly, and are marked with a K to distinguish them from the ordinary men.

This equipment is especially suitable for use with the handicapped because partially paralyzed patients, or those whose movements are limited by physical disabilities, are able to play and enjoy the game. From the standpoint of rehabilitative therapy it is both useful and beneficial.—MAJOR KENNETH A. HILL, *Special Services Officer, California State Veterans Home and Hospital, Napa County, California.*

Tampa Pre-School Program

The Tampa, Florida, Recreation Department play program for pre-school children is a most important phase of its total recreation services. Six pre-school play programs are conducted in strategic areas of the city with the recreation department providing facilities and lead-

ership. While designed for outside activities utilizing available playgrounds, indoor community centers are also available in most instances.

Since the department believes that parents should play an active part in such a program, a real effort is made to have every single parent participate, serving as mother-of-the-day, assistant to the paid director, planning special parties and outings, and in many other ways. At the beginning of each season a three-day workshop acquaints the mothers with all phases of the program. In addition, the mothers of each group are organized into a Mothers Club and meet at intervals throughout the year, not only to plan for the program but for social get-togethers.

Example for Other States

Music, drama, painting, dancing, sculpture and other fine arts had their "day" April 21 through 29, when West Virginia schools, colleges, churches, arts institutions and similar organizations observed, on a state-wide scale, the Second Annual State Creative Arts Festival.

Although the core of activity was in Charleston, the capital city, in towns, large and small, people gathered to celebrate and give recognition to West Virginians who are working earnestly in the arts and bringing distinction to the cultural life of the state. During the

nine-day celebration many Charleston stores provided window space for art exhibitions. The Children's Museum, Kanawha County Library, and the State Capitol also housed leading exhibits.

Industrial Workers Included

Recreation participation in Louisville, Kentucky, is increasing—and 172 of the city's biggest industries and businesses are cooperating. They post signs cards highlighting city recreation activities on company bulletin boards. William A. Moore, superintendent of parks and playgrounds, is directing the campaign with the aid of local industrial leaders.

One thousand of the cards are posted by the firms each month. A survey showed that these cards are reaching approximately 100,000 workers.

It's Picnic Time in LOUISVILLE!

City Residents can borrow FREE Picnic, Party, and Athletic Kits by calling:

The City Division of Recreation

MELrose 5-5211

Get and Keep: *A Picnic Party Booklet* (10¢ by mail—Free if picked up at Central Park)

This first sign posted brought scores of requests. The cost of printing and mailing the cards each month is less than thirty dollars. Since the cards each reach about one hundred people, Mr. Moore feels that the cost of three cents per card is a worthwhile investment.

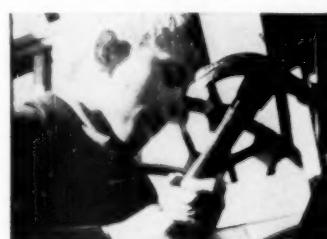
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Hospital Capsules

Beatrice H. Hill

This is a brief report of a research project, conducted from December 1954 to July 1955, on the effect of recreation on 139 chronically ill patients in Bergen Pines Hospital, Paramus, New Jersey.

The team of people making the study was under the supervision of Dr. Roscoe Brown, a professor in the research department of the School of Education, New York University. Doctor Brown's report follows.

"Patients on two floors of the hospital participated in the project. These were chronically sick people, about half of whom had been hospitalized for over one year. There were sixty-eight patients, half of them men, on *Floor A* during the period of the study. Their average age was sixty-four; and most of them were hospitalized because of a neurological condition. On *Floor B* there were seventy-one female patients with an average age of seventy-two and a half years. All of these were suffering from general chronic diseases of old age such as cardiac ailments, arthritis, diabetes, cancer.

"From a modest beginning, the program at the end of the six-month period included the following activities: parties, movies, photo-tinting, bingo, social games, music, newspaper, dramatics, library, gardening, and grooming.

"The following aspects of patient's behavior were studied:

1. State of health as measured by: (a) Medical Rating Scale, rated by the attending physician; and (b) Self-Rating of Health, the patient's rating.
2. Adjustment in the hospital as measured by: (a) Nurse's Rating Scale, rating of patient's general cooperation and adherence to hospital routine, and (b) Patient's Adjustment Scale, the patient's evaluation of hospital services.

MRS. HILL is the NRA consultant on hospital recreation.

routine, and personnel.

3. Personality pattern as measured by: (a) projective personality tests such as the Thematic Apperception Test and the Sentence Completion Test; and (b) psychological interview.

"The results were all rated on a five-point scale ranging from 1 for excellent to 5 for very poor.

"Complete data were available for twenty-two patients on *Floor A* and for seventeen patients on *Floor B*. It was not possible to collect complete data on all patients, some having died or been discharged during the project.

"The data obtained were analyzed, through the use of appropriate statistical tests, to determine the statistical significance of any differences (i.e., the extent to which any differences may be chance differences).

"Although the measures of patient behavior presented above did not reveal statistically significant differences, there were some patients who showed particular improvement in the personality scale. This was not true of the group as a whole, however."

* * * *

The amazing thing was that the research showed no change in the patients' behavior, mental and health testing. Nevertheless, individual notes kept by the recreation worker, Miss Judith Fields, showed a change in the personality and morale of many of the patients. People who had previously sat and stared at the walls came to watch the movies and play passive games. Stroke cases, who had not smiled in months, beamed happily at the music that was brought to them consistently. Several patients who had been completely depressed became interested in the art of photo-tinting. For those who had seen the ward before recreation came to it, and then afterwards, it is almost incomprehensible to realize that in the actual research no

changes were noted. The most amazing finis to our six-month research was that, on the day we withdrew our recreation worker from the hospital, the administrator told me that we would wait perhaps a year before engaging another —this time on the hospital budget. Exactly three days passed when he phoned me that the patients who had been a part of the research were so upset about the sudden withdrawal of their activities program, that they had created every nuisance possible with their relatives and friends, and were demanding that a recreation worker be hired. The worker was engaged, the hospital is thriving recreationally, and to quote the superintendent, Dr. Rufus Little, "My hospital was once just a place to treat the diseases and symptoms of my patients. Today, thanks to recreation, we feel we are a thriving community."

As Doctor Brown states further: "It is of interest to note the impact of recreation at Bergen Pines on the community in which it serves. Where there were few volunteers at the beginning of the program, now there are many. The recreation department is now a regular part of the hospital program, with the enthusiastic support of the community and by the literal demand of the patients.

The results of this project indicate that the impact of a hospital recreation program seems to transcend the effect on the patients alone. The recreation program appears to have a social function in the acceptance of a hospital by the community and on the way in which a community thinks of its sick. This project has raised many interesting questions which are challenges to the recreation profession as well as to the psychological and medical fields. It appears that further explorations of this type should be conducted by the universities and hospitals of the nation."

* * * *

I wish I knew the answer to this question: Are the tools available today for adequately testing the value of recreation, or is it, perhaps, impossible to test the morale and spirit of a person? Only much more research will give us the answer. I certainly would be interested in comments from our readers. ■

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Books & Pamphlets Received

ADULT EDUCATION, Homer Kampfer. McGraw-Hill Book Company, 330 West 42nd Street, New York 36. Pp. 433. \$5.50.*

CAMP ADMINISTRATIVE FORMS AND SUGGESTED PROCEDURES IN THE AREA OF PERSONNEL. American Camping Association, Bradford Woods, Martinsville, Indiana. Pp. 30. \$.35.

CHARTER FOR THE AGING (New York State Governor's Conference on Problems of the Aging, 1955). Office of the Special Assistant, Problems of the Aging, State Capitol, Albany, New York. Pp. 659. \$3.00 (payable to the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance).

CITY FOR JEAN, A. Helen Wells. Funk and Wagnalls, 153 East 24th Street, New York 10. Pp. 218. \$2.75.

COMING OF AGE: Problems of Teen-Agers (#234). Paul H. Landis. Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16. Pp. 28. \$.25.

COMMUNITY AND THE DELINQUENT, THE — Co-operative Approaches to Preventing and Controlling Delinquency. William C. Kvaraceus. World Book Company, 313 Park Hill Avenue, Yonkers, New York. Pp. 566. \$4.75.

CRAFTS FOR SCHOOL AND HOME. Gretchen Grimm and Catherine Skeels. Bruce Publishing Company, 400 North Broadway, Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin. Pp. 128. \$.25.

DELINQUENT BOYS: The Culture of the Gang. Albert K. Cohen. Free Press, 1005 W. Belmont Avenue, Chicago 13. Pp. 202. \$.35.

DRESS UP AND LET'S HAVE A PARTY, Remy Charlip. William R. Scott, Inc., 8 West 13th Street, New York 11. Unpaged. \$1.50.

ENJOY YOUR LEISURE TIME (Autograph Collecting Guide). Robley D. Stevens. Robley D. Stevens, P.O. Box 1061, Washington 13, D.C. Pp. 36. Paper \$1.00.

ETHEL AND ALBERT, ONE-ACT COMEDIES: ETHEL AND ALBERT COMEDIES (5 episodes), pp. 60. \$1.25; FOOL'S PARADISE, pp. 19. \$.50; THE INCOME TAX, pp. 28. \$.50; OFF WITH HIS HEAD, pp. 21. \$.50; TEEN AGE PARTY, pp. 29. \$.50. All by Peg Lynch. Samuel French, Inc., 25 West 45th Street, New York.

EVALUATION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, AN. Robert F. Wallace. State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington. Pp. 63. \$1.00.

FACT BOOK ON YOUTH IN NEW YORK CITY. Welfare and Health Council of New York City, 44 East 23rd Street, New York 10. Pp. 123. Paper \$1.00.

FITNESS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL YOUTH, Karl W. and Carolyn W. Bookwalter, Editors. American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. Pp. 150. \$2.50.

GOLF SECRETS OF THE PROS, Larry Robinson. Arco Publishing Company, Inc., 430 Lexington Avenue, New York 17. Pp. 144. \$2.00.

HEALTH OBSERVATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN (Second Edition). George M. Wheatley and Grace T. Hallock. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 330 West 42nd Street, New York 36. Pp. 487. \$6.50.*

HERE'S POWER FOR YOU (Four Complete Body Building Courses). David Manners. Sentinel Books Publishing Inc., 112 East 19th Street, New York. Pp. 128. \$2.95.

JUNIOR BOOKS AWARDS, 1955. Boys' Clubs of America, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16. Pp. 138. Single copies free; in quantity, \$.25 each.

MURALS FOR SCHOOLS—Sharing Creative Experiences. Arne W. Randall. Davis Press, 164 Printers Building, Worcester 8, Massachusetts. Pp. 100. \$5.95.

MY BASEBALL ALBUM (Record Book for Boys' Baseball Leagues). Carmel Publishing Company, South Hamilton, Massachusetts. Pp. 32. Paper \$1.00.

MYTHS AND LEGENDS OF THE AGES, Marion N. French. Hart Publishing Company, Inc., 74 Fifth Avenue, New York 11. Pp. 319. \$4.75.

SOFTBALL: OFFICIAL GUIDE AND RULE BOOK of the Amateur Softball Association and the International Joint Rules Committee for Softball (1956). Amateur Softball Association, 11 Hill Street, Newark 2, New Jersey. Pp. 144. \$.60.

ONE FOR THE BOOK FOR 1956—Complete All-Time Major League Records. Leonard Gettelson. Charles C. Spink & Son, P.O. Box 178, St. Louis 3, Missouri. Pp. 346. Paper \$1.00.

PARAKEETS IN YOUR HOME, Mervin F. Roberts. Sterling Publishing Company, Inc., 215 East 37th Street, New York 16. Pp. 128. \$2.95.

PATRIOTIC PLAYS AND PROGRAMS, Alleen Fisher and Olive Rabe. Plays, Inc., 8 Arlington Street, Boston 16. Pp. 418. \$4.00.

ROLE PLAYING IN LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND GROUP PROBLEM SOLVING, Alan F. Klein. Association Press, 291 Broadway, New York 7. Pp. 176. \$3.50.*

SAFETY EDUCATION, A. E. Florio and G. T. Stafford. McGraw-Hill Book Company, 330 West 42nd Street, New York 36. Pp. 327. \$5.50.*

SEW EASY! (For the Young Beginner). Peggy Hoffmann. E. P. Dutton & Company, 300 Fourth Avenue, New York 10. Pp. 93. \$2.75.*

SPORTS AFIELD BOATBUILDING ANNUAL (1956 Edition). Sports Afield, 959 Eighth Avenue, New York 19. Pp. 96. \$75.

TENT CAMPER'S GUIDE TO NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK STATE CAMPING AREAS, Don Parry. Outdoor Publishers, P.O. Box 55, Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Pp. 60. Paper \$1.00.

TRAINING FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP IN TROOPS AND CAMPS. Girl Scouts of the United States of America, 155 East 44th Street, New York 17. Pp. 55. Paper \$1.00.

UNDERSTANDING OUR NEIGHBORS (Youth Recreation Kit), 1956 Edition. United States Committee for UNICEF, United Nations, New York. Pp. 35. \$1.00.

WHO'S ON FIRST? Fair Play for All Americans (#233). Jack Mabley. Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16. Pp. 28. \$.25.

WINNING HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL, James Smiloff. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Pp. 324. \$4.95.*

WONDERFUL WORLD FOR CHILDREN, A. Peter Cardozo. Bantam Books, 25 West 45th Street, New York 36. Pp. 244. \$.35.

* These publications are available from the National Recreation Association at list price plus fifteen cents for each book ordered to cover postage and handling. *Active Associate and Affiliate Members of the Association receive a ten per cent discount on list price.* Remittances should accompany orders from individuals; organizations and recreation departments will be billed on their official orders. Address orders to Combined Book Service, National Recreation Association, 8 West Eighth Street, New York 11, New York.

Magazine Articles

CALIFORNIA PARENT-TEACHER, May 1956

Children and TV, Gladys Johnson.

CAMPING MAGAZINE, May 1956

Role Playing—A Workable Approach to Better Camp Leadership, Hedley G. Dimock.

CHILDREN, May-June 1956

Recreation for Colorado's Children, Nancy J. Swank.

CHILD STUDY, Spring 1956

Exercise and Emotional Stability, Mary O'Neil Hawkins.

Fancies and Foibles in Child Care, Sidonie Matsner and Benjamin C. Gruenberg.

INDUSTRIAL SPORTS AND RECREATION, March 1956

How to Set Up Golf Driving Ranges, Anthony E. Orlando.

Shooting Action on Films.

JOURNAL OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION, February 1956

Camping with Confidence, George W. Martin.

Target Golf—A New Game, Anthony E. Orlando.

NEA JOURNAL, March 1956

Adventures in Outdoor Learning, Julian W. Smith.

For the Mind's Courage, Bonaro W. Overstreet.

—, April 1956

Another R—Recreation, Walter A. Graves.

PARKS AND RECREATION, March 1956

Grateful for Grass, Robert W. Schery.

Junior Rangers—A Group of Youngsters Form a Unique and Educational Organization, Jack Parker and Maryann Danielson.

—, April 1956

Columbia Park Picnic Shelter, Felix K. Dhaein.

\$2,000,000 Auditorium-Coliseum Built in Lubbock, Texas.

—, May 1956

Utility Earnings are Used to Finance Municipal Swimming Pool, C. Orville Schupp and Kenneth H. Larkin.

What Type of Filter Shall We Use on Our Swimming Pools? Chauncey A. Hyatt.

SAFETY EDUCATION, April 1956

Safety with Kites and Model Airplanes.

—, May 1956

Make Yours a "Come and Play" Playground, Mary Margaret Frederick.

They Went to the Students, R. Earl Kipp.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Covering the Leisure-time Field

Fun and Games

Margaret E. Mulac. Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York 16. Pp. 329. \$3.95.*

Miss Mulac's books—*The Playleader's Manual*, *The Game Book*, and two written in collaboration with Marion S. Holmes, *The Party Game Book*, and *The School Game Book*—are, or should be, in the libraries of recreation leaders. The first, in particular, has become almost a classic.

Perhaps their effectiveness was not only owing to the excellent materials, but to the fact that they were written for a particular audience, and so there was a real reason for each game selected.

This book, while adequate, lacks the effectiveness of those others, and perhaps this is because it tries to cover too wide a field and to reach too diversified an audience. For example, the chapter on children's parties is weak, and would give a parent almost no basis for knowing how to plan a party for a four-year-old as against a six- or nine-year-old. On the other hand, the chapter on "Finger Plays and Hand Tricks" is good. The chapter on "Singing Games and Dance Mixers" has the "oldies"—Mulberry Bush, Looby Loo, and so on—that can be found almost anywhere. A chapter on "Card Games and Tricks" is good.

So it goes—a curiously uneven book, with some excellent new ideas and many old ones.

Our only serious criticism is the inclusion of two ideas in the chapter on "Tricks and Puzzles." These might be used at a private party with a fairly sophisticated group, but both can get out of hand very easily and become either risqué or at least suggestive. They would not be at all suitable or appropriate for a church group, or for many other groups including teenagers.

Even with this criticism, however, the book is well worth adding to your recreation shelf. An index adds to its usefulness.

First Boat (How To Pick It and Use It for Fun Afloat)

C. B. Colby. Coward-McCann, Inc., 210 Madison Avenue, New York 16. Pp. 48. \$2.00.*

As Mr. Colby says in his foreword, "A book is no substitute for a row, a paddle, a sail, or a dash across the lake in an outboard," but this book is a valuable introduction to all of them. It is simple enough for youngsters to read and understand, very clearly illustrated, and is a really excellent explanation of the parts of a boat, the methods of rowing, sculling, landing, sailing, and so on. It also includes the major boating knots, boating traffic rules, care of motors, sailing, and other pertinent data. Especially good for pre-camp instruction, or dry land courses. Best of all, it makes it all sound like fun. Young beginner-sailors will love it. Recommended for your water program.

Other books in the same series are: *First Bow and Arrow*, *First Camping Trip*, *First Fish*, and *First Rifle*.

Jacks

Patricia Evans. The Porpoise Bookshop, 308 Clement Street, San Francisco 18. Pp. 30. \$2.5.

If you were a little girl, or have a little girl, or know a little girl—sit right down and order a copy of this delightful little booklet, just for old times' sake. It's all there—that wonderful, age-old game played around the world and down the years.

And if you didn't see the other two little booklets by the same author, *Hopscotch* and *Jump Rope Rhymes* (\$.25 each), add them to your order. Miss Evans must have had a wonderful childhood to be able to capture the charm of these childhood, traditional games so dear to small girls—and many small boys, too. (Incidentally, they'd make nice little Christmas gifts for just the right people!) →

* See footnote on page 310.

How to Draw and Paint

Henry Gasser. Dell Publishing Company, 261 Fifth Avenue, New York 16. Pp. 240. \$50.

This pocket-size, paper-backed little book will be slipped into many a pocket for a picnic or field trip this summer. It is an introduction to painting—starting with oils and progressing through watercolors, pastels, casein painting, and black-and-whites. It treats this range of subject matter in amazing detail for the size and length of the book. Copious illustrations, many in color, add to its attractiveness as well as its usefulness. It is truly a fine handbook of fundamental principles. Mr. Gasser's own paintings have been exhibited throughout the United States and abroad; he has taught and lectured on art in many parts of the country and is author of other books on painting. (Available on your newstand.)

Songs for Sixpence

Josephine Blackstock. Follett Publishing Company, 1010 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago 7. Pp. 158. \$2.95.

It has always seemed surprising that our profession that deals so closely with children on an informal, voluntary and friendly basis has contributed almost nothing to children's literature. Josephine Blackstock is one of the exceptions. Superintendent of recreation in Oak Park, Illinois, for many years, she has written many books for young people, in addition to plays and pageants used in the drama programs of Oak Park. Recently retired and now living in Marin County, California, she has used her new leisure to write what we think is her very best book, *Songs for Sixpence*, the story of John Newbery, the first publisher who thought children's books should be gay as well as instructive, and that book-learning and fun could go hand-in-hand.

Every child is in his debt, because it was he, back in the eighteenth century, who collected and published between bright covers the songs and stories that we know as *Mother Goose*. Very fittingly, the most coveted award for children's literature in America is made in his name and known as the Newbery Award.

Friend of Samuel Johnson, Oliver Goldsmith and David Garrick, he is known largely through their writings. Only one biography existed until Josephine Blackstock gave him to the children of America in this delightful book. It has charm, humor and wit, is full of human interest and the savor of exciting eighteenth-century London and the English countryside.

The publisher has printed the book

on the fine paper stock and with the beautiful print that a fine book deserves but doesn't always get. The illustrations by Maurice Bower have charm and vitality.

Put this book on your Christmas list for your own children, and your nieces and nephews, but add it to your own library too. Let's hope Miss Blackstock will give us many more books that contain the true recreation philosophy of enjoyment of living.—*Virginia Musselman, NRA Program Service*.

Nature Photography Guide

Herbert D. Shumway. Greenberg: Publisher, 201 East 57th Street, New York 22. Pp. 125. Paper \$1.95.

Those who read *Audubon Magazine*, *U. S. Camera*, and others using unusual photographs of wildlife will recognize this author as one of the best-known nature photographers. This book includes many beautiful and interesting examples of the way he can capture the delicate beauty of wildflowers, the fragile wings of butterflies, birds feeding their young, and so on.

Give this book to your camera club, and it will keep members happy for months. Use it in your nature clubs, too—and for your camp program. It is well-written, and is full of the love of the outdoors as it is of technical information. The chapter on making a nature movie is worth the cost of the book. Recommended.

The First Book of Caves

Elizabeth Hamilton. Franklin Watts, Inc., 699 Madison Avenue, New York 21. Pp. 62. \$1.95.

Don't ever think the series of *First* books is for babies. It's not. It's for beginners. And if this book doesn't make you want to go out and explore a cave, nothing will! It's full of the magic of caves—how they were formed, the people who lived in them, their history and legends.

And along with this colorful account, safety and common sense are stressed. The style is simple enough for a ten-year-old to be able to read—but it does not "talk down" to a child. Any group or individual interested in the wonders of nature will enjoy it. It will be excellent for nature clubs, hiking clubs, hobby clubs, or for camp. Also, just fascinating to read! Recommended.

Finger Fun (Songs and Rhythms for the Very Young)

Helen Wright Salisbury. Cowman Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 9812, Los Feliz Station, Los Angeles 27, California. Pp. 56. \$2.50.

A charming book that would delight

any mother, teacher, or leader of preschool youngsters. The finger plays are illustrated from sketches of the fingers of the little girl to whom the book is dedicated.

The book is uncluttered. The words and actions, as well as songs (words and music), are well-spaced, easy to read and understand. The collection is unhackneyed. It includes some old favorites, of course, but many that are original, or not generally available. We wish that the section on rhythms had contained as wide a variety as the sections on finger fun and songs.

Mrs. Salisbury is principal of an elementary school in Los Angeles and is also a church nursery school superintendent. The book reflects her interest in and love for children.

Outdoor Education

Julian W. Smith. American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. Pp. 32. Paper. \$75.

One of the foremost exponents of outdoor education and school camping, the author is eminently qualified to write on this topic. This booklet is an excellent guide for those groups or communities interested in making education a vital, enjoyable experience, both in the classroom and outdoors. Well-written and charmingly illustrated, it is a valuable addition to the literature on this subject. Its reading and film lists increase its usefulness.

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Recreation Leadership Courses

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June, July and August, 1956

HELEN M. DAUNCEY Social and Playground Recreation	Altoona, Pennsylvania June 7-8	David M. Langkammer, Superintendent of Recreation
	Toledo, Ohio June 11-14	Arthur G. Morse, Supervisor of Recreation, 214 Safety Building
	York, Pennsylvania June 18-19	Mrs. Sylvia C. Newcombe, Superintendent, York Recreation Commission
	Westchester County, New York June 21	Miss Vivian O. Wills, Assistant Superintendent, Westchester County Recreation Commission, White Plains
	State of Rhode Island June 28-29	William H. Cotter, Jr., Chief, Bureau of Recreation, State Office Building, Providence
RUTH G. EHLERS Playground Recreation	Whitinsville, Massachusetts July 2-3	Roscoe Marker, Superintendent, Northbridge Playground and Recreation Commission
	Mankato, Minnesota June 4-5	
	St. Cloud, Minnesota June 6-8	
	Virginia, Minnesota June 12-13	
	Superior, Wisconsin June 15-16	
ANNE LIVINGSTON Playground Recreation	Shepherdstown, West Virginia July 9-12	Robert L. Horney, NRA District Representative, 110 Shepard Terrace, Madison 5, Wisconsin
	Sheboygan, Wisconsin June 12-15	Dr. Oliver S. Ikenberry, President, Shepherd College
	Frederick, Maryland June 18-19	Howard Rich, Director of Public Recreation
ANNA S. PHERIGO Playground Recreation	Pittsfield, Massachusetts June 18-21	Mrs. Helma Hann Bowers, Frederick Recreation Commission
	Bristol, New Hampshire June 15-16	Vincent J. Hebert, Superintendent, Board of Park Commissioners
GRACE WALKER Creative and Playground Recreation	Clifftop, West Virginia June 6-8	Waldo Hainsworth, NRA District Representative, Fowler Road, Northbridge, Massachusetts
	Lancaster, Pennsylvania June 11-12	L. A. Toney, State Leader, Extension Work, Institute
	Bristol, New Hampshire June 15-16	Albert E. Reese, Director of Recreation, 135 N. Lime Street
FRANK A. STAPLES Arts and Crafts	Toledo, Ohio June 11-14	Waldo Hainsworth, NRA District Representative, Fowler Road, Northbridge, Massachusetts
	Altoona, Pennsylvania June 22-23	Arthur G. Morse, Supervisor of Recreation, 214 Safety Building
		David M. Langkammer, Superintendent of Recreation

The National Recreation Association is happy to welcome Miss Anna S. Pherigo to the Recreation Leadership Training Staff for special assignments. Miss Pherigo served as Superintendent of Recreation in Lexington, Kentucky, from 1925 to 1944 and as Superintendent of Parks and Recreation from 1944 until May of this year.

A two-day statewide summer playground training course for New Hampshire will be held on June 15 and 16. Members of the Association's leadership training staff will be assisted by Waldo Hainsworth, NRA district representative, and Richard A. (Wink) Tapply, director of recreation, Bristol. For further information or to register please write to Mr. Hainsworth, Fowler Road, Northbridge, Massachusetts.

Attendance at training courses conducted by National Recreation Association leaders is usually open to all who wish to attend. For details as to location of the institute, contents of the course, registration, and the like, communicate with the sponsor of the course as listed above.



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